

Sofia summit opens today

SOFIA (R) — Warsaw Pact leaders converged on the Bulgarian capital Sofia on Monday for a summit meeting focusing on arms control and efforts to rekindle détente. A Soviet spokesman interviewed by Bulgarian Television said the meeting of Communist leaders from the seven pact members would concentrate on nuclear disarmament, prevention of weapons in space and reviving détente. Vladimir Lomeiko, head of the Soviet Foreign Ministry press department, was speaking as Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his military and political allies flew to Sofia for the summit, expected to open on Monday. Western diplomats believed they would seek a coordinated stand in advance of next month's summit between Mr. Gorbachev and U.S. President Ronald Reagan in Geneva. Bulgarian officials have said the meeting would probably last until Wednesday.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تيمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Soviet envoy rules out rescue mission

BEIRUT (AP) — Soviet Charge d'Affaires Yuri Soudlikov on Monday ruled out a military mission to rescue three Soviet embassy personnel kidnapped in west Beirut three weeks ago despite threats to kill them. Mr. Soudlikov, the senior Soviet diplomat in Beirut, noted: "We do not have the means for such a move." He disclosed after meeting Prime Minister Rashid Karami to discuss the hostage crisis that there has been no direct contact with the kidnappers, believed to be Islamic fundamentalists. Mr. Soudlikov also met on Monday with Justice Minister Nabih Berri, leader of the Shiite Muslim Amal militia. He made no comment after the parley. On Sunday, a caller claiming to speak for the Islamic Liberation Organisation told the body of one of the captives had been dumped near the city sports. But police and militiamen found no corpse during a dragnet of the area.

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Peru, Jordan open diplomatic relations

LIMA (R) — Peru said on Monday it had established diplomatic relations with Jordan as part of the new government's policy to expand ties with the Arab World. A Foreign Ministry statement said the two countries would soon name non-resident ambassadors. The government of President Alan Garcia, which took office on July 28, established relations with Morocco in August.

Arab fund lends \$16.5m to Jordan

KUWAIT (R) — The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development said on Monday it agreed to lend Jordan \$16.5 million for agricultural development. The loan will cover 20 per cent of the cost of a project to develop pastures in the lower basin of the Zarqa River. The fund said in a statement issued on Monday that it is repayable over 18 years, and carries a five-year grace period.

Iraq reports 29th attack on Kharg

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq said its warplanes on Monday launched a "devastating raid" on Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal after a weekend lull and returned safely to base. A military spokesman said in a communiqué on state radio that the air attack, the 29th against Kharg since mid-August, was carried out at 10:40 a.m. The attack was launched to "prevent the enemy from exporting its oil and using the revenue to finance continuation of its aggression," said the spokesman.

Maghreb states to discuss Israeli raid

ABU DHABI (AP) — Leaders of the five Arab states in the north-west of Africa are planning a summit soon to discuss the impact of the Oct. 1 Israeli raid on Tunisia on their regional security, sources in Morocco were quoted on Monday as saying. The sources also were quoted by the Abu Dhabi-based daily Al Itihad as saying the summit "will discuss means of restoring diplomatic relations between Libya and Tunisia," which were severed after Libya deported thousands of Tunisian workers. The five nations — Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania — were reported to have given preliminary approval for the summit, the paper said.

Ortega slams U.S. in U.N. speech

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Nicaragua's president led off the final week of ceremonies marking the U.N. 40th anniversary on Monday, saying his country will suspend the current state of emergency when U.S. "state terrorism" ceases. "Nicaragua shall never kneel before the policy of state terrorism being practiced by U.S. rulers," Daniel Ortega Saeedra said. He challenged U.S. President Ronald Reagan, who speaks to the assembly on Thursday, to use the occasion to announce that it will cease "its policy of aggression against Nicaragua."

Jordan, Syria reach 3-point political accord

Rifai, Kasm end Riyadh meetings; talks to continue in Damascus and Amman

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

JORDAN AND SYRIA on Monday reached a three-point political agreement outlining a common position towards efforts to reach just and durable peace in the Middle East, and agreed to resume reconciliation talks in Amman and Damascus.

The outcome of the second round of talks between Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai and his Syrian counterpart Abdul Raouf Kasm was contained in a statement issued by Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, who, in his capacity as head of an Arab reconciliation committee, chaired the meetings in Riyadh on Sunday and Monday.

The statement said the Jordanian-Syrian agreement was based on three points:

First, commitment to all Arab summit resolutions in which Arab consensus was reached;

Second, adherence to the Arab plan adopted at the 1982 Fez summit to achieve comprehensive Middle East peace in the context of an international peace conference to be held under United Nations auspices and attended by all parties after finding the right mechanism which is necessary for

it;

Third, rejection of all partial and unilateral peace agreements with Israel.

Prince Abdullah's statement added that the two sides, during their Riyadh talks, discussed a number of "bilateral issues which concern the two brotherly countries and decided to resume their constructive and brotherly talks in Damascus and Amman and pave the way for further cooperation."

The Saudi crown prince, head of the Arab committee which was charged by the Aug. 7 extraordinary Arab summit in Casablanca to settle Syria's differences with Jordan and Iraq, expressed satisfaction with what has been achieved in the Riyadh meetings, he said, will bring Jordan and Syria closer together under

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan on Monday rejected direct negotiations with Israel as called for by Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres in an address to the U.N. General Assembly and said the Kingdom's stand towards solving the Palestinian problem remains unchanged.

An authoritative source, in an exclusive statement to the Jordan Times and the Arabic Al Ra'i newspaper, said Jordan's response to the Peres proposal (See story on last column on right) was made clear in the communiqué issued on Monday in Riyadh by Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, head of an Arab committee charged with settling Syria's differences with Jordan and Iraq.

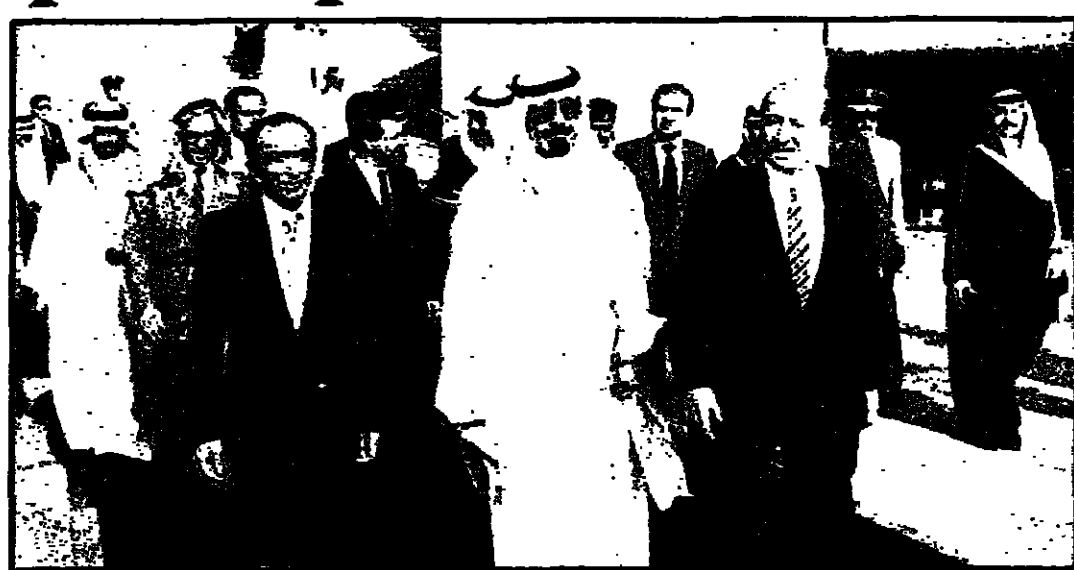
Prince Abdullah's statement, issued after two days of talks between the Jordanian and Syrian

Jordan rejects Peres proposal

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Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Syrian Premier Abdul Raouf Al Kasm (left) are seen off by Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz (centre) after their two-day talks in Riyadh on Monday (Petra photo)

Senior PLO envoy arrives in Amman with Arafat's message

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — Khaled Al Hassan, a senior adviser of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived in Amman late Monday carrying a message for His Majesty King Hussein from the PLO chairman, informed sources said.

Mr. Hassan, a member of the Central Committee of Fateh, will also discuss with senior Jordanian officials future moves in the joint Jordanian-Palestinian quest for Middle East peace, the sources told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Arafat said in Baghdad last week that the PLO was reassessing its strategy towards Middle East peace efforts in the wake of the Oct. 1 Israeli raid on the headquarters of the PLO in Tunis. But he reaffirmed the PLO's commitment towards the Feb. 11 agreement with Jordan.

Lebanese seeking to settle all differences, Gemayel tells U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Lebanese President Amin Gemayel told the General Assembly on Monday the Lebanese people had now reached a consensus on those issues over which they disagreed in the past.

Mr. Gemayel also called on the United Nations to secure the withdrawal of remaining Israeli troops from southern Lebanon.

Referring to the aftermath of a decade of civil war, he said: "The Lebanese have begun to formulate a new constitution, one that is more progressive, more adapted to the dramatic changes that have affected their country and more responsive to the principles of freedom, justice and equality of opportunity."

He was convinced they would reach their goal in the near future "away from the sound of gunfire and the clash of arms."

He added: "I can also confirm that the Lebanese have now reached a consensus on those matters over which they disagreed in the past... it may be correct to say that the domestic aspect of the Lebanese question is almost resolved. What remains, of course, is the foreign aspect."

"We will need your help in this endeavour," he said, urging implementation of Security Council resolutions calling for the total withdrawal of Israeli forces that invaded Lebanon in 1982.

Alluding to the establishment by Israel of a so-called "security zone" when the bulk of its troops were pulled out of Lebanon in June, Mr. Gemayel said: "Due to procrastination over implementing these resolutions, our people in the south have been forced to adopt armed resistance as a means to their freedom."

Dutch troops quit UNIFIL, page 2

The PLO has meanwhile denied U.S. press reports that PLO Executive Committee member Mohammad Milhem was a leader of "Force 17" commando unit.

The PLO said in a statement that the reports about Mr. Milhem were an attempt to mislead public opinion and smear the reputation of Palestinian officials.

Mr. Milhem was one of two senior PLO figures whom Britain refused to see in a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation last week.

Mr. Hassan said on Sunday Mr. Milhem had never been engaged in military action and had never had military responsibilities.

The Oct. 1 Israeli air raid on the PLO's headquarters in Tunis, which the PLO is convinced was American-inspired, and the U.S. hijacking of an Egyptian plane carrying four Palestinian hijackers, were "deliberate" political

grievances, he said. The Oct. 1 Israeli air raid on the PLO's headquarters in Tunis, which the PLO is convinced was American-inspired, and the U.S. hijacking of an Egyptian plane carrying four Palestinian hijackers, were "deliberate" political

Bomb explodes in Gaza on eve of Bar-Lev visit

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — A small explosive charge went off in a rubbish bin outside Gaza prison on Monday shortly before a visit by Israeli Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev, military sources said.

There were no casualties or damage, the sources told Reuters. No arrests were reported.

Other reports said that the headquarters of the military governor in Khan Yunis came under a hand-grenade attack Sunday night. An Israeli spokesman said Monday the attack resulted in no casualties but that police security forces launched a search campaign, and arrested a number of Palestinians.

According to the Palestinian news agency Wafa, a number of successful resistance operations were carried out against the Israeli troops in the Beersheba, Jaffa, Jerusalem and Khan Yunis over the weekend.

Wafa said that the operations carried out on Sunday included an attack on the central military market at Beersheba, a police station in Jaffa, a police post near occupied Jerusalem and a hand-

grenade attack on the military headquarters at Khan Yunis.

Wafa said the operations resulted in many casualties among Israeli troops.

Other reports from the occupied territories said that the Israeli authorities recently confiscated 1,700 dunams of land around the occupied town of Dura near Hebron on the West Bank. The landowners protested to the military governor in Hebron to no avail, the reports said.

The reports said that the confiscated lands have been assigned for "military" settlements.

According to earlier reports, the Israeli authorities in the occupied Gaza Strip confiscated more lands around Gaza and carried out sabotage activities against Arab agricultural land. Israeli bulldozers have started levelling 34 dunams of land in Khan Yunis, destroying crops and vegetables in this area, the reports said.

The occupation authorities have also damaged crops belonging to Arabs in the areas of Beit Hannoun and Amer over the past two days, the reports said.

Commonwealth announces package of limited sanctions on S. Africa

NASSAU (Agencies) — The Commonwealth, judging a reluctant Britain, has announced a package of limited sanctions against South Africa and threatened to impose more within six months.

In a deal marked by major concessions to Britain, the 49-nation group also agreed Sunday night to send high-powered emissaries to South Africa to press the white-minority government to free black leaders, end apartheid and negotiate a "non-racial, representative government."

Veteran African leader Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda on Monday defended the mild sanctions, which contained few new measures, as an important signal to South Africa from the association of Britain and its former colonies.

British Prime Minister Mar-

garet Thatcher, who brought the Commonwealth close to open split with a lone battle to stop it imposing economic sanctions, made relatively minor concessions and claimed victory.

She also declared she would refuse to impose tougher sanctions after the six-month deadline.

"Well, they've joined me now," Mrs. Thatcher told reporters late Sunday after the leaders of the mainly African, Asian and West Indian organisation met through the day, hammering out a deal at a millionaires' playground, Lyford Cay, near Nassau.

Mr. Kaunda warned that history will judge Britain harshly if Mrs. Thatcher refuses to impose more sanctions.

"It is an important conceptual change," said Mr. Kaunda, add-

Peres calls for peace talks before '85 end

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres on Monday offered to terminate the state of war between Israel and Jordan immediately and called for peace negotiations before the end of this year.

Peres said the agenda, procedure and international support for the negotiations could be discussed at a meeting of small working teams to be convened within 30 days.

Peres said the negotiations should take place between Israeli and Jordanian delegations, or between an Israeli and a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation whose members "represent peace."

In an address to the General Assembly, he said: "I hereby proclaim: the state of war between Israel and Jordan should be terminated immediately. Israel declares this readily in the hope that King Hussein is willing to reciprocate this step."

The two countries have been in a state of war since Israel was established in 1948.

Speaking during observances marking the 40th anniversary of the United Nations, Peres said: "I invite this organisation to depart from the tired and timid road and to fulfil its destiny as enshrined in its walls, by ushering the parties to the (Middle East) conflict into a new diplomatic initiative."

He said the initiative should be based on the following principles:

"1. The objective of these negotiations is to reach peace treaties between Israel and the Arab states, as well as to resolve the Palestinian issue.

"2. Neither party may impose pre-conditions.

"3. Negotiations are to be based on United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and on willingness to entertain suggestions proposed by other participants.

"4. Negotiations are to be conducted directly, between states.

"5. If deemed necessary, these negotiations may be initiated with the support of an international forum, as agreed upon by the negotiating states.

"6. This gathering can take place before the end of this year, in Jordan, Israel or any location, as mutually agreed upon. We will be pleased to attend an opening meeting in Amman.

"7. Negotiations between Israel and Jordan are to be conducted between an Israeli delegation on the one hand and a Jordanian — or a Jordanian-Palestinian — delegation on the other, both comprising delegates that represent peace, not terror."

"The permanent members of the Security Council may be invited to support the initiation of these negotiations," he added. This was apparently intended as a substitute for an international conference under U.N. auspices that Jordan and other Arab states have been insisting on.

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Craxi begins work on new coalition

ROME (Agencies) — Socialist Party leader Bettino Craxi set out on Monday to form a new Italian coalition government less than a week after his first administration collapsed over the Achille Lauro liner hijack.

Mr. Craxi told journalists the task, formally entrusted to him Monday morning by President Francesco Cossiga, could prove difficult.

He was due later on Monday to start consulting other party leaders in what political sources said would probably be an attempt to revive the five-party ruling alliance which fell apart last week after 26 months in office.

This consisted of Christian Democrats, Socialists, Republicans, Social Democrats and Liberals.

The small Republican Party quit the government on Wednesday, charging that it had not been consulted over a decision to allow a Palestinian leader alleged by the U.S. to have planned the ship hijacking to leave Italy.

All five government parties have said they are willing to see their coalition resurrected, but commentators said Mr. Craxi's main obstacle was likely to be persuading differences between the Republicans and Socialists.

Mr. Craxi is scheduled to travel to New York on Thursday for a meeting with Western leaders called by U.S. President Ronald Reagan to discuss Mr. Reagan's Nov. 19-20 summit with Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev in Geneva.

Commentators said the despatch by President Reagan of an emissary to Rome to patch up U.S.-Italian relations strained by the hijack affair had signalled to the Republicans that they should mend their fences with Mr. Craxi.

In a statement immediately after seeing Mr. Cossiga on Monday, Mr. Craxi said: "I shall get straight down to work to try to resolve a crisis whose solution could turn out to be not easy."

He said patching together a political formula was not enough, and he called for "a sound and solid agreement between the political forces on principles and programmes" both for Italy's foreign and domestic policies.

Mr. Craxi said Italy would suffer if negotiations dragged on for a long time.

Whitehead optimistic over U.S.-Egypt ties after meeting Mubarak

CAIRO (Agencies) — Deputy Secretary of State John C. Whitehead said he and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak agreed on Monday that the process toward peace in the Middle East must continue despite recent U.S.-Egyptian strains.

Mr. Whitehead said he gave Mr. Mubarak during a meeting of almost two hours a letter from President Ronald Reagan that "expressed his continued commitment to close U.S.-Egyptian relations and his hope that we can now put our recent differences behind us."

In a prepared statement, the

American envoy described the two countries' relations as "close and vital and important" and said: "Today's meeting was a good first step toward furthering this relationship."

Mr. Reagan sent Mr. Whitehead to Italy and Egypt to repair damage done to American relations with them by the Oct. 10 U.S. hijacking of an Egyptian airliner carrying four hijackers of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro. U.S. navy fighters forced the Egyptian Boeing 737 to land in Sicily, where Italy took custody of the

In a prepared statement, the

Tunis denies having given okay for Egyptian plane

TUNIS (Agencies) — Tunisia was asked by the United States to accept an Egyptian plane carrying the hijackers of the Italian cruise ship Achille Lauro but refused as a matter of principle, an authoritative source said on Monday.

Tunisia's policy was never to allow planes carrying hijackers to land on its soil, the source, quoted by Reuters, said.

The source declined to respond specifically to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's latest accusation that Tunisia collaborated with the United States in the affair.

The government had already denied such Egyptian accusations, the source said.

"The Americans asked if we would accept the plane and we

said 'no'. We do not allow planes carrying hijackers to land."

President Mubarak on Sunday accused the United States and Tunisia of stalling him in the back by colluding to have the Egyptian plane forced down in Italy.

In a U.S. television interview, Mr. Mubarak was asked whether he thought the United States and Tunisia had arranged a trap for him.

"Yes, yes, frankly yes," he replied and added: "I could tell you I considered from the United States a stab in the back and the stab in the back from who? from a friend."

(Continued on page 5)

Beirut battles reerupt after two-day calm

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Gun-battles erupted across Beirut's dividing green line on Monday, shattering a two-day lull when President Amin Gemayel endorsed a militia accord to end Lebanon's 10-year-old civil war.

Police said one Lebanese army soldier was wounded when militiamen fought with heavy machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades in the old commercial district and Ras Al Nabaa residential neighbourhood.

The green line that splits Beirut into mostly western and mainly Christian eastern sectors has been relatively calm since Saturday, when Mr. Gemayel met with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in Damascus to review the new plan to end the civil war.

The Syrian-sponsored plan was negotiated by representatives of the three main militias who have

done most of the fighting in the war in which more than 100,000 people have been killed.

Although Mr. Gemayel gave his consent to the plan, few details have been officially announced. The leaders of the three powerful militias are expected to sign the peace agreement later this month.

Mr. Gemayel left Damascus Saturday and flew to New York, where he was scheduled to address the 40th session of the U.N. General Assembly on Monday.

Arafat fears 'massacre'

In Kuwait, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat said on Monday he feared a massacre "within hours" in Palestinian camps in Beirut and Tripoli.

(Continued on page 5)

GCC ministers ratify joint defence strategy, establish RDF

KUWAIT (AP) — The six defence ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) member states wound up Monday a two-day session in Kuwait with an announcement that they had ratified a joint defence strategy and completed establishment of a Rapid Deployment Force (RDF).

The ministers of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Oman and Kuwait, planned an inspection tour later in the day of the force which has been deployed in the Saudi Gulf coastal region of Hafr Al Baten.

GCC Secretary General Abdullah Bishara, in a press statement at the conclusion of the talks, said the collective defence strategy had been drawn up by the chiefs of staff of the six states at a meeting in Riyadh earlier this month.

"This strategy takes into consideration the circumstances of each member state, and the principle of gradual movement toward achieving the (GCC) strategic aims," Mr. Bishara said.

Details of the declared strategy remained undisclosed and were expected to be publicised only by the GCC heads of state at their next annual summit conference, scheduled for Nov. 3 in Oman.

The strategy crystallised the "principle of self-reliance in accordance with a collective vigilance" that had already been dictated by the GCC leaders, Mr. Bishara said.

The ministers expressed "deep satisfaction at the completion of setting up the Rapid Deployment Force," and affirmed the importance of its presence as a collaboration centre and a translation

Salem Al Sabah, and GCC Secretary General Abdullah Bishara, for alertness to a possible strike from Israel as well.

This came in the wake of the Israeli Oct. 1 raid on the Palestine Liberation headquarters in Tunis, and revived memory of the Israeli air attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1981.

Prince Sultan, the Saudi defence minister, affirmed that there was "complete accord and determination to upgrade the level of military capability" by the six GCC states.

The four-year-old GCC alliance projects gradual moves toward a unified front on the political, economic as well as the military spheres.

The GCC groups together the Arab Gulf states who are basically

armed by the Western world. Oman last month became the second GCC state to establish relations with the Soviet Union after Kuwait.

Muscar's move led to speculation that the rest of the GCC states may also be moving in the same direction. But Prince Sultan, in reply to reporters' questions here, said Saudi relations with the Soviet Union depended on relations with Islamic states.

"If (Soviet) relations with the Muslim world improved, then relations will be resumed," Prince Sultan said.

He was believed to be suggesting that Saudi re-establishment of diplomatic relations with Moscow would be linked to ending the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

Dutch contingent ends operations with UNIFIL

BEIRUT (R) — The 140-man Dutch contingent in the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) has officially ended its operations, a UNIFIL spokesman said Monday.

"Officially they have not been operational since yesterday. They will leave next Thursday," spokesman Timor Goksel said. "The nine Dutch positions are now manned by Nepalese and Fijian troops."

The Dutch government announced on Oct. 8 it was withdrawing its troops from the 5,700-man force in South Lebanon because of concern for their

safety. UNIFIL's original mandate included supervising the withdrawal of Israeli troops who invaded the South in 1978, but Israel's Lebanese militia allies have always blocked its deployment to the border.

About 800 Dutch soldiers joined UNIFIL in 1979, a year after the force was set up, but the number was reduced to 140 after Israel's 1982 invasion.

Nine countries now contribute units to UNIFIL, whose mandate was extended by the Security Council last week for another six months.

Human rights issue plagues Turkish-European ties

By Paul Bolding
Reuter

ANKARA — Continuing concern in Western Europe over human rights in Turkey is dogging Ankara's efforts to restore relations severed after the 1980 military coup.

A senior European Commission official, Ricardo Ravenna, was in Ankara recently to see diplomats and Turkish officials for a periodic reassessment of relations.

Any European Community initiative to resume ties would need to come from the Commission, which proposes action to the decision-making Council of Ministers. But diplomats in contact with Mr. Ravenna said he was unlikely to suggest any policy change.

The Community has yet to release some \$750 million in aid frozen after the coup and its officials say concern about human rights in the European Parliament is the main reason.

Attention is now focussing on a report on Turkey by British Socialist Deputy Richard Balf, to be discussed by the European Parliament this week.

Approved by the assembly's political affairs committee, the report urges that the European Parliament's ties with the Ankara

parliament remain frozen because Turkey has not made satisfactory progress towards restoring democracy.

It calls on Ankara to abolish the death penalty, end mass trials of pacifists, trade unionists and intellectuals, and remove what it calls restrictions on freedom of political activity, trade union rights and the expression of opinion.

Commissioner Claude Cheysson, a French Socialist who is responsible for Mediterranean policy, strongly opposes normalising ties. "We can hardly mention Turkey in his presence," one Community official said.

Five members of the 21-nation Council of Europe have maintained a formal complaint against fellow-member Turkey for human rights violations from 1980 to 1982, which could lead to Ankara being censured by the European Court of Human Rights, an organ of the council.

Human rights officials are pursuing a "friendly settlement" under which the complaint could be dropped if conditions are seen to have improved in Turkey. But the climate was not helped by the leak earlier this year of critical details of a report on the case by Council of Europe staff.

A diplomat monitoring Turkish-Community relations

said sentiment in Europe was very much coloured by regular reports from the London-based human rights body Amnesty International alleging systematic torture in Turkish detention centres.

Turkey denies this, saying occasional cases of maltreatment are unavoidable and that offenders are punished. It also accuses Amnesty of recycling out-of-date information.

Turkey regards Europe as crucial for failing to recognise its progress towards democracy since restoration of civilian rule in 1983. It is also smarting at new curbs on its exports of clothing and cloth by both the Community and the United States.

European officials say the textiles issue has nothing to do with human rights, but acknowledge that little change is likely in their stance until human rights are seen to have improved.

Of the 10 bloc members, Britain and West Germany agree most readily that progress has been made, though both say more must be done. But there has been little sign of Bonn honouring a pledge this year to lobby in Brussels on Turkey's behalf.

Not is there a solution in sight to a row over Turkey's claim that its citizens are entitled to seek jobs freely in the Community from

December 1986 under its associate membership agreement.

Bonn has said it will permit no influx of job-seeking Turks and Western diplomats believe Ankara will exact a high price to drop its claim in a trade-off.

The accord entitles Turkey to seek full membership, but Community officials say the problems of adapting for both sides would be so great as to make Turkish accession almost unthinkable.

At the same time, the standards of democracy the Community expects of Turkey today are all the more rigid because of the prospect, however dim, of its full membership, they add. Among criticisms is the continuation of a parliament elected in 1983 in a poll which only three parties were allowed to contest.

Attention in Brussels is also focussing on a possible amnesty for political prisoners under discussion in Ankara. Thousands of people are in jail for involvement in factional fighting that wracked Turkey in the 1970s, but many are also there because of their ideas and beliefs.

The 1982 constitution promulgated during military rule excludes an amnesty for those convicted of crimes against the state, and public comments by Turkish leaders indicate they are not thinking of changing that provision.

Shamir hopes to persuade EC to drop PLO from peace talks

TEL AVIV (AP) — Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir left for Luxembourg Monday saying he hoped to persuade Europe to back Israel's rejection of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) members as negotiators in Middle East peace talks.

"I would like to persuade Europe to follow the line adopted by the United States," Shamir told reporters at Ben-Gurion Airport.

"I will try to persuade them to support direct negotiations between Israel and Jordan without preconditions," said Shamir, who will attend a European Common Market meeting of foreign ministers.

Israel is trying to press what it sees as its diplomatic advantage over the PLO in the aftermath of the Oct. 7 hijacking of the Italian ship Achille Lauro.

Its campaign to discredit the PLO in Europe also was encouraged by Britain's cancellation of a meeting with two PLO representatives last week after the two men refused to endorse a statement recognising Israel and rejecting armed struggle.

Israeli papers reported that Prime Minister Shimon Peres appeared to be pressing for agreement with the United States and Jordan for preliminary talks, mainly on procedural matters, which would exclude Palestinians.

This would allow Israel and Jordan to hold face-to-face meetings without either side immediately having to decide on the issue of Palestinian representation, the papers said.

But the daily Haaretz reported that Mr. Peres was willing to drop most of Israel's conditions restricting Palestinian representation in peace talks.

Haaretz quoted Mr. Peres as telling U.S. officials during talks in Washington this week that he would accept Palestinian peace negotiators so long as they were not involved in attacks against Israel.

The premier has said in the past that Israel would not accept any Palestinian negotiating partner whose hands were "stained with blood." But he has said that some PLO members proposed by Jordan for a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation were acceptable to Israel.

Mr. Shamir, who heads the right-wing Likud Bloc in the multi-party coalition, said he would accept international sponsorship for peace talks with Jordan, but an international peace conference could not come in place of direct Arab-Israeli negotiations.

"If some members of the (U.N.) Security Council supported direct negotiations between us and the Arab countries, we will not oppose it," Shamir said on Monday. "But I don't think it's practical now," he added.

UNRWA needs \$28m in 1986

BEIRUT, Lebanon (Agencies) — The U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) that aids Palestinian refugees in the Middle East will need an extra \$28 million next year to maintain its services, Commissioner-General Olof Rydbeck said in the agency's annual report released Monday.

He disclosed that UNRWA, set up in 1950, expects contributions of around \$158 million this year to pay for its education, health and relief services for more than two million refugees.

Rydbeck, who will soon retire after six years as UNRWA's chief, said that the agency has survived what was probably its worst financial crisis in the last year.

More than \$43 million was trimmed from its 1985 budget because of austerity measures, he disclosed.

Rydbeck, appealing for more funds, stressed in the report for the year ending June 30: "Support

for UNRWA is an inexpensive investment in peace-keeping."

He urged the U.N. member states to meet early next year to plan "a rational approach" to the agency's future.

More than 100 U.N. member states have contributed to UNRWA, but only about 60 make regular contributions, including services.

The biggest single donor is the United States with more than \$1 billion dollars. Britain has given more than \$200 million and Sweden more than \$100 million.

Rydbeck said Palestinians in Lebanon were caught up in the civil war fighting. Some 75,000 were displaced by fighting in camps in Beirut and Sidon, 20 miles south.

Police said some 650 people were killed and more than 2,500 wounded, mostly Palestinians, in the Beirut clashes between Palestinians and Shi'ite Muslims.

The report said that 345,844 pupils enrolled in UNRWA schools in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

More than 796,000 Palestinians were treated in UNRWA health centres during the year, the report added.

UNRWA said it registered 2,093,545 Palestinian refugees as of June 30, 60,000 more than the previous year.

By the end of the reporting period, UNRWA's assistance programme for the needy refugees (mainly families with no male breadwinner) was benefitting 103,857 persons in the agency's five fields of operation (Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, West Bank and Gaza Strip). In Lebanon, 8.62 per cent of the 263,599 registered refugees are classified as hardship cases, the highest percentage of any field, the annual report said.

Khamenei unhappy with new proposed cabinet

TEHRAN (R) — The Tehran Times said Monday President Ali Khamenei "most probably will not approve" half of a new 24-man cabinet proposed to him by Prime Minister Mir-Hossein Mousavi.

The list, printed by the Times and the National News Agency IRNA, Sunday, included nine new names. The Times said Monday Mr. Khamenei had so far approved 12 ministers in all, of whom only two were new.

Diplomats considered the Mousavi list more radical and in favour of the public sector than his previous cabinet, despite a show of increased traditionalist opposition to him.

They said Mr. Mousavi felt strong enough to propose such a cabinet because of explicit backing from spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

The Times said Mr. Khamenei questioned Mr. Mousavi's new choices for the key ministries of oil and interior, but approved the continuation in office of Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati and the minister in charge of internal security, Mohammad Reyskari.

Sudan forms panel to prepare for talks

KHARTOUM (AP) — The Sudanese government announced on Monday formation of a 28-member committee to prepare for a national reconciliation conference on the rebellion in southern Sudan. The committee is chaired by university professor Mohammad Omar Bashir, who met last week with rebel leader John Garang in his headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Other committee members are legal, economic, political, social and religious specialists from across the country.

Victim's behaviour prompted ship hijackers to kill him

ROME (AP) — Leon Klinghoffer may have been killed by the hijackers of the Achille Lauro because he tried to defend himself when his captors pushed and insulted him, a prosecutor was quoted Sunday as saying.

The body of the 69-year-old crippled New Yorker was flown Sunday to New York from Rome, where an autopsy indicated he had been killed by gunfire.

The Rome daily La Repubblica quoted Genoa Deputy Prosecutor Luigi Carli as saying that investigators had learned from three witnesses that Klinghoffer had "reacted" to shoves and jibes by one of the four hijackers.

He said for it, Mr. Carli reportedly said, with a punch to the stomach by one, and a shot from a Kalashnikov submachine gun by another.

Several calls to Mr. Carli's office in an attempt to confirm the reports went unanswered on Sunday.

La Repubblica also said that Klinghoffer had been separated from the other hostages aboard the Achille Lauro because the four hijackers had considered the wheelchair-bound man an "obstacle."

Another Rome newspaper, Il Messaggero, quoted unnamed judicial sources as saying that Klinghoffer had actually struck one of the hijackers when his watch was ripped from his wrist. Angered, the hijacker called for Klinghoffer's execution, Il Messaggero said, without naming the hijacker. Both newspapers reported that Klinghoffer's wife, Marilyn, knew definitely of his brutal death only as the hijackers were leaving the ship after their surrender on Oct. 9. One of the hijackers stopped to clasp her hand and burst into tears, indicating to her the fate of her husband, the newspapers said.

An official in Rome confirmed, following the autopsy, that Klinghoffer had been killed by at least one gunshot.

A Portuguese waiter of the ship, Joaquim Figueira da Silva, said the hijackers had threatened to kill

him and a waiter if they didn't dump the New York native's body over the side of the ship, according to the Milan daily Corriere Della Sera.

He told the newspaper earlier this week that the body had been covered in so much blood that they could not tell where he had been shot.

On Sunday, U.S. Ambassador Maxwell Rabb stood by quietly as the American flag-draped coffin carrying Klinghoffer's body was brought to a Pan Am 747 waiting at Rome's Leonardo Da Vinci Airport to take it to New York.

It was met in New York by members of the Klinghoffer family and New York and U.S. government officials.

Prosecutors on Sunday reviewed developments in the investigation following lengthy questioning of the hijackers Saturday in the maximum security prison in Spoleto, central Italy, where the four men charged with the hijacking are being held, the Italian News Agency ANSA said.

Prosecutors in Genoa, claiming a right to jurisdiction in the case because the ill-fated ship left from Genoa on Oct. 3, have asked those in Sicily, Sicily, to hand over to them results of their investigation.

Judicial authorities in Sicily have been conducting their own investigation of the hijacking because the four hijackers were brought to Sicily in an Egyptian plane forced down there by U.S. warplanes.

Sultan: Saudi-Soviet ties contingent on Moscow view of Islam

KUWAIT (R) — A senior Saudi Arabian minister indicated here that the Soviet Union would have to change its attitude to Islam before diplomatic relations could be restored. Prince Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz, minister of defence and aviation, told reporters in response to questions: "We will restore relations if it (Moscow) improves its relations with Islam." He did not elaborate.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE
Tel: 77311-19	639, 720, 1413 KHz
MAIN CHANNEL	
17:00 Koran	06:00 News 06:30 The Sacred Choir
17:30 Caricatures	06:45 Personal Story 06:55 Reflections
17:50 Children's Programmes	07:00 World News 07:29 24 Hours
18:10 Eleven Hour	07:30 News Summary 07:30 News 07:40
18:35 Just Our Luck	07:45 Book Choice 07:45 The World Today
19:00 Local Programme on Safety	08:00 News 08:30 24 Hours
19:30 News Programme	08:35 World News 08:35 24 Hours
19:45 Tomorrow's Programmes	08:45 News 08:45 24 Hours
20:00 News in Arabic	08:50 News 08:50 24 Hours
20:30 Arabic Series	09:00 News 09:00 24 Hours
21:25 Tomorrow's Programmes and varieties	09:05 News 09:05 24 Hours
21:50 Arabic Series	09:10 News 09:10 24 Hours
22:00 News in Arabic	09:15 News 09:15 24 Hours
22:10 Series Contd.	09:20 News 09:20 24 Hours

FOREIGN CHANNEL
18:00 le tour du monde en 80 jours
18:30 des chiffres et de lettres
19:00 News in French
19:15 les amours des années folles
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Lucy Anna Show
21:20 Late Host
22:00 News in English
22:15 Feature Film: "Mice and Men"
22:30 Robert Lake, Randy Jaid

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHZ, AM & 99.0 KHZ, FM
& partly on 9560 KHz, SW
77411-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 News Desk
08:00 Morning Show
10:00 News Summary
10:05 Morning Show Contd.
11:00 Pop Session Contd.
12:00 News Summary
12:05 Pop Session Contd.
13:00 News Summary
13:05 Pop Session Contd.
14:00 News Bulletin
14:10 Instrumentals
15:00 Country Music
16:00 News Summary
16:05 Instrumentals
16:30 Old Favourites
17:00 Science Report
17:30 Pop Session
18:00 News Summary
18:05 Top Twenty
19:00 Newsdesk
19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:05 Evening Show Contd.
22:00 News Summary
22:05 Evening Show Contd.
23:00 News Summary
23:05 Evening Show Contd.
23:57 News Headlines
14:00 Close down

VOICE OF AMERICA
MW 1260, SW 7200, 855, 11740, 11925 and 15210 Hz
06:00 News 06:10 Newsline 06:30 VOA
Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline
07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10
Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning News
Summary 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline
07:30 Music USA 08:00 News 08:10
Focus 08:30 Special English News &
Features 09:00 News 09:10 Newsline
19:30 Magazine Show 20:00 News 20:10
Newsline 20:30 Special English News &
Features 21:00 News 21:10 Newsline
America 21:30 Music USA 22:00 News
& Editorial 22:15 Music USA Jazz 23:00
News 23:10 World Report

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS
EXHIBITIONS
* An exhibition of computer equipment at the Yarmouk University.
* An exhibition of modern French ceramic industry at the French Cultural Centre (until Oct. 23).
* An exhibition of paintings of Jordanian landscapes by Alan Baker at Al-Cezar Hotel, Amman (until Oct. 29).
* An exhibition of paintings "Jordan 85" by Jordanian youth artists at Al-Ba Art Gallery, Jabal Amman (until Oct. 28).
* An exhibition of Pharaoh art by Egyptian artist Butuakhan Nekt at the Housing Bank Complex Gallery.

VIDEO
"Portrait Jean Vilar" at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.
"The ABC News - the McLaughlin Group at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.
CHURCHES
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Lubdeh, 637440.
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 61757.
Church of the Ascension (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 623541.
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 678906.
Catholic Church (Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 771331.
Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 775261.
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 771751.
Armenian Evangelical Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsiah, 816534.
Evangelical Lutheran Church, Jabal Amman, 6th Circle, (Rev. N. Smir), Tel. 811295.
Rabbi Isaac Congregation (International, Interdenominational) meets in the Church of the Redeemer, Jabal Amman, Tel. 663249.

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FOR THE TRAVELLER
JEBEL ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Alia information department at the Jebel Alia International Airport tel. (08) 530-5, where it should always be verified.
ARRIVALS
08:45 Aqaba (RJ)
09:30 Kuwait (RJ)
09:30 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:45 Jeddah (RJ)
09:45 Cairo (RJ)
10:15 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:30 Dhahran (RJ)
10:30 Larnaca, Damascus (RJ)
10:45 Dhahran, Riyadh (SV)
10:50 Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
11:00 Cairo (RJ)
11:15 Dubai, Doha (GF)
11:20 Moscow (SU)
11:30 Kuwait (KU)
11:35 Baghdad (IA)
11:45 Cairo (RJ)
17:30 New York, Vienna (RJ)
17:45 Athens (RJ)
17:55 Rome, Damascus (RJ)
18:00 Copenhagen, Frankfurt (RJ)
18:05 Amsterdam, Istanbul (KLM)
18:25 Beirut (MEA)
18:25 Istanbul (RJ)
18:35 Zurich, Larnaca (RJ)
19:30 Tripoli (RJ)
20:25 Athens (OA)
09:25 Baghdad (RJ)

DEPARTURES
06:30 Aqaba (RJ)
08:00 Beirut (MEA)
08:45 Tripoli (RJ)
11:00 Athens (RJ)
11:45 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)
11:50 Cairo (MS)
12:00 Paris, London (RJ)
12:00 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:15 Riyadh, Dhahran (SV)
12:30 Rome, Damascus (RJ)
13:00 Istanbul (RJ)
13:15 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
13:30 Cairo (RJ)
13:30 Moscow (SU)
13:45 Kuwait (KU)
17:30 Baghdad (IA)
19:30 Kuwait (RJ)
19:40 Dhahran (RJ)
19:45 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
20:10 Baghdad (RJ)
20:15 Jeddah (RJ)
20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
21:15 Cairo (RJ)
22:00 Bangkok (RJ)

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
A gradual increase in temperature is expected. Light and variable winds will become southerly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.
Low high temperature in deg. C.
Amman 11/27
Aqaba 13/31
Deserts 11/28
Jordan Valley 15/30
Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 24, Aqaba 29. Humidity readings: Amman 49 per cent, Aqaba 25 per cent.

MONEY EXCHANGE
Monday rates
Local sell/buy rates in ffs
Bahraini dinar 1000/1007.5
Dutch guilder 126.4/127.4
French franc 23.5/23.5
French franc 46.9/47.3
Iraqi dirr 365.5/370.5
Japanese yen (for 100) 175.2/176.6
Kuwait dinar 1205/1229
Lebanese lira 21.2/21.2
Omani rial 1000/1097.5
Qatari riyal 104/104.5
Saudi riyal 104/104.5
Swedish crown 47.3/47.7
Swiss franc 174.3/175.7
Swiss lira 28.2/29.2
U.A.E. dirr 103.1/103.7
U.K. sterling pound 540.4/544.7
U.S. dollar 375.4/378.5
W. German mark 143.5/144.6

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES	NIGHT DUTY
Amman governorate 891228	AMMAN:
Amman civil defence 198, 139	Dr. Mufeed Tannous 894964
Civil Defence Irbid 271293, 273131	Dr. Khalid Abu Khasa 770460
Civil Defence Jweish 770733	Khalid pharmacy 778653
Ambulance 193, 775111	Natrouk pharmacy 623672
Amman downtown fire brigade 198	Al Jalal pharmacy 624228
First aid 830241	Khaled Ibn Al Walid pharmacy 674708
Blood bank 778303	Asaf pharmacy 653281
Civil Defence rescue 661111	
Fire headquarters 622090-3	
Police rescue 192, 621111, 630771	TANIS:
Police headquarters 630771	Gravel Palace taxi 657079
Traffic police 896390/1	Medical City taxi 813813
Electric Power Co. 636381/4, 624881	Nei taxi 644493
Municipal water companies 771225/8	Sakra taxi 622347
Juana A la Int. Airport (08) 5330460	Talal taxi 625021

HOSPITALS
Husseini Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Amman 642412/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malheis, J. Amman 636140
Shamsiah Hospital 664171/4
Shamsiah Hospital 642412/2
University Hospital 845845/65
Al-Musaher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666217/37
Al-Ahli, Amman 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajira 771013/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775112/6
Amy, Marja 891611/5

GENERAL
Jordan Television 773111/19
Marwan 774111/19
Ministry of Tourism 642311
Hotel complaints 666412
Price complaints 666176
Telephone Information 12
Arabic and Middle East calls 10
Overseas calls 11
Repair service 11

MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in ffs per kg.	
Apple 150/170	Lemons (green) 150/170
Apple (American) 100/160	Malaw 100/160
Banana 250/220	Marrow (large) 340/380
Banana (Mukammur) 250/220	Onion (dry) 160/120
Beans (local) 420/360	Onion 380/300
Cabbage (local) 200/150	Orange (Abu surra) 100/70
Carrot (yellow) 260/220	Orange (Shammout) 210/170
Cauliflower 200/150	Parsley 100/100
Cucumber (large) 280/240	Peas 250/200
Cucumber (small) 280/240	Peas (sweet) 340/200
Eggplant (large) 120/80	Pepper (hot) 220/180
Eggplant (small) 200/160	Potatoes 240/180
Figs (green) 310/250	Raspberries 100/80
Grape (without leaves) 250/200	Sweet Melon 200/160
Grapes 250/200	Tomatoes 100/80
Juvas 240/200	

NEWS IN BRIEF

Khatib meets with travel agents board

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Information, Culture, Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Al Khatib Monday met with the chairman and members of the board of directors of the Jordan Travel Agents Association. The minister stressed the importance of coordination between the association and the Tourism Authority to promote tourism in the country. Mr. Khatib also affirmed the ministry's support to the association and for its efforts to develop tourism in Jordan. Attending the meeting were the ministry's Under-Secretary Michael Hamarneh and Tourism Authority Director General Nasri Attallah.

Planning official briefs Chinese team

AMMAN (Petra) — Under Secretary of the Ministry of Planning Ziad Fariz conferred here Monday with a delegation from the Institute of International Affairs in China and briefed them on Jordan's coming five-year development plan. He also reviewed Jordan's cooperation with Arab and friendly nations in economic and trade-related affairs. Dr. Fariz explained Jordan's incentives to foreign investors and facilities for foreign businessmen in the country. He also reviewed Jordanian-Chinese economic and trade relations and said that the joint Jordanian-Chinese trade committee is due to hold a meeting in Amman this month to review economic cooperation.

Eight-year old accidentally kills mother

TAFLEH (J.T.) — A 29-year-old woman has been killed by a stray bullet from Al Ain Al Baida in Tafleh district, from a shotgun tampered with by her eight-year old son. The woman was rushed to Tafleh government hospital but was later pronounced dead. The shotgun belongs to her husband, a shepherd identified only as A.M.A., who had left the gun beside his chair while he slept. The child found the gun and tampered with it causing the bullet to fire and hit his mother.

RSS president leaves for India

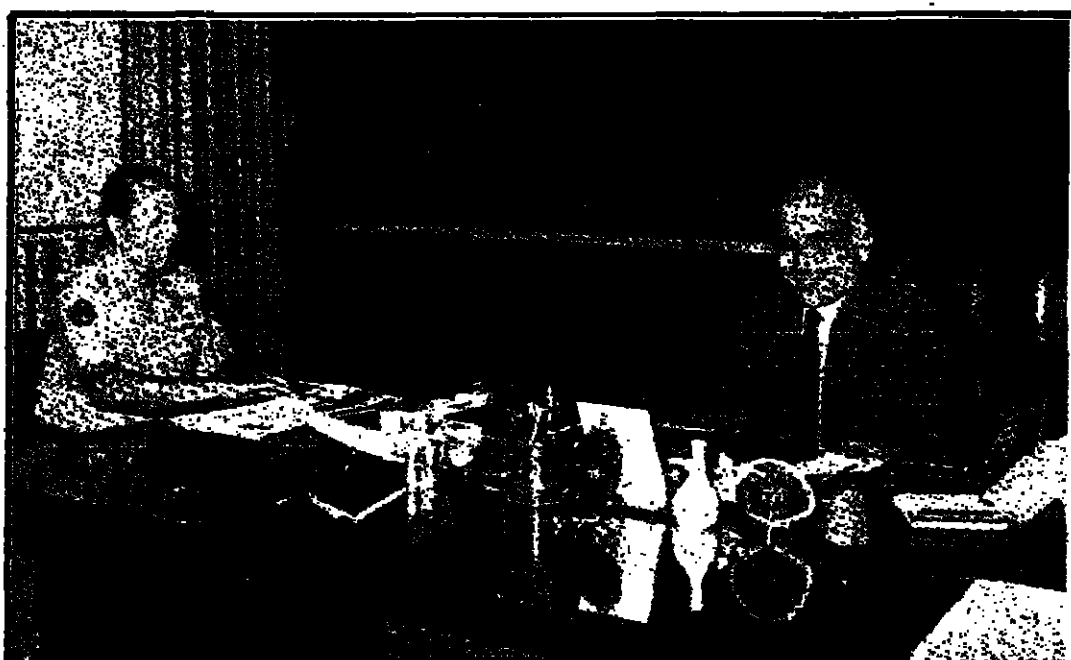
AMMAN (Petra) — Royal Scientific Society (RSS) President Fakhreddin Daghestani left for India Monday upon an invitation from the Indian Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. Dr. Daghestani will tour the research institute and discuss the scope of cooperation between the council and the RSS. A cooperation agreement has been signed between the Indian council and the RSS.

British education team visits university

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the education institute at London University Monday paid a visit to the University of Jordan and met with its acting president Mahmoud Al Samrah. Dr. Samrah briefed the delegation on the university's educational policy, development and educational programmes. The delegation also held talks with the deans of the faculties of education and science and the dean of higher studies to review educational and scientific cooperation between the university and the institute.

Hashish trafficker sentenced to 8 years

AMMAN (J.T.) — A Jordanian citizen, Jamil Falah Durzi, has been sentenced to eight years in prison with hard labour for trafficking with hashish. The military governor general Monday endorsed the sentence.



KING VISITS ARMY HQ: His Majesty King Hussein Monday called at the army headquarters where he met with Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker for talks on a number of issues pertaining to the Armed Forces. Upon his arrival at army headquarters, the King was met by Sharif Zaid, Army Chief of Staff Lt.-Gen. Fathi Abu Taleb and the armed forces inspector general.

WFP team visits Karak agriculture department

KARAK (J.T.) — A team from the World Food Programme (WFP) Monday paid a visit to Karak Governorate where they met with Dr. Mukhlis Ammarin, the regional director of agriculture, to discuss the implementation of a project for establishing pasture land in the governorate.

Dr. Ammarin said later in a statement to the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that to date 111,152 dunums of land have been reclaimed as pasture over the past four years with WFP assistance. He said that a 50,000 dunum plot of land located in the eastern regions of the governorate have also been allocated for development as pasture land.

During their visit to Karak, the WFP team met with members of cooperative societies which are helping to establish these pastures in the governorate. According to Mr. Yusef Nawayseh, the director of the local cooperative organisation, cooperative societies in the area are now involved in reclaiming and developing some 40,000 dunums of land to be used as pasture for livestock.

Husseini, Obeid discuss joint projects, cooperation with Egypt

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Communications Mohieddin Al Hussein Monday conferred with a visiting Egyptian delegation from the transport and communications committee of the People's Assembly led by the committee's chairman Dr. Sa'ad Ibrahim Khalaf. During the meeting the two sides discussed the scope of cooperation in the field of communications between the two countries and ways of further strengthening this cooperation.

The delegation also met with Transport Minister Farhi Obeid for talks on joint Jordanian-Egyptian transport projects and facilities on the Aqaba-Nuweine ferryboat link.

Later the Egyptian delegation visited the central Jordan Valley

Soviet friendship society stresses need for just Middle East peace

AMMAN (Petra) — The visiting deputy chairman of the Soviet society for friendship with foreign countries, Mr. Doktonalev Setaliv said that Jordanian-Soviet relations are based on mutual respect and added that the Soviet people appreciate the wise leadership of His Majesty King Hussein. He also stressed the importance of establishing a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East and realising the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Mr. Setaliv was speaking on the occasion of a visit to Jordan by a 15-member folklore troupe from the Soviet republic of Kirgizia which arrived here to present its performances in Jordan.

Each code, or each volume of the Dustour Al Binaa, is produced one-by-one by its own drafting or working committee and a specialised technical committee which reviews the drafts before they are sent to the Permanent Committee. The system is cumbersome, but seems necessary.

Dr. Jabaji explains: "The problem with this code is that we have been unable to finish it in the time we promised to, because technical committees absolutely refuse to

be charged with reviewing the final drafts of the code and recommending adoption to the Higher Committee. The Higher Committee for the National Building Code must work within the laws and rules of the state, and appears to have two options in order to place the force of law behind the codes. First, the Ministry of Public Works is authorised to regulate the building and construction industry in Jordan, and may under this authority be empowered to make the codes compulsory. The ministry's lawyers are currently examining this issue. The second option may be for the Ministry of Industry, which has a department for standards and specifications, to implement the new building codes.

Once a way is found to make the codes mandatory, the problem of enforcement may become an even more difficult obstacle to surmount. Dr. Jabaji explained that application and enforcement of the codes will require an increase in qualified manpower in municipalities and rural areas — engineers at the ministerial level and inspectors at the local, at a time when an increase in the number of public servants is neither politically palatable nor fiscally feasible.

A possible solution may be to use the engineering consulting offices themselves, by designating a certain number to be certifiers, with regulation to prevent abuses. A similar system is currently employed in Germany.

Whatever the final method of implementation, the Dustour Al Binaa will represent a seminal achievement in the Arab World. Dr. Jabaji noted that "Now there are attempts at coordination between the different Arab countries. We are 'the tip of the spear,' all the others have to follow. The Arab League Office of Standards and Specifications is trying to organise a committee, which already has seven countries as members, in fact, so that the other countries would take these codes which we produced as the initial draft, and see what work they feel needs to be done on them, so that eventually the seven Arab countries would have a uniform building code."

Dr. Jabaji had to laugh when the summarised the evolution of creating a new building code. "When we first started with the idea we were ridiculed... people were not convinced that in fact it was necessary. Now, we're being shouted at because we're late in producing the books." It would seem to be the price of success.

Educational progress hindered by Israeli malpractices, Majali tells UNESCO meeting

SOFIA (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Abdul Wahab Al Majali said in Sofia Monday that Jordan's endeavours to promote education are constantly being hindered by Israeli's measures against Arab educational institutions, staff and students in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

The minister said that Israel's actions impose additional burdens on Jordan and make the task of maintaining the Arab cultural character in these institutions much more difficult.

Mr. Majali, who was addressing the 23rd meeting of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), said that Israel is taking measures to try and obliterate the Arab and Islamic culture and identity in addition to its other arbitrary measures designed to force the Arab population to abandon their homeland.

All United Nations and UNESCO resolutions have emphasised the need for preserving the identity, culture and historical heritage of Jerusalem, but despite these resolutions, the Israeli authorities are continuing with their dangerous measures in flagrant defiance of international principles and are going ahead with a programme to Judaize Jerusalem and obliterate all Christian and Muslim character and culture from the holy city, Mr. Majali said.

Jordan, he continued, is poor in natural resources but rich in human resources and the Kingdom is determined to provide the best education and knowledge to all its citizens. More than 35 per cent of the total population of Jordan, the minister pointed out, are students at schools, community colleges and universities and constant endeavours are being made to eradicate illiteracy in Jordan, despite the adverse and unfavourable circumstances in the Middle East region.

Jordan, Mr. Majali added, believes that UNESCO is one of the most essential and basic institutions helping countries to develop their educational systems, and the minds and awareness of citizens. He also remarked that the organisation contributes towards promoting understanding among nations.

Therefore, he continued, Jordan calls on the United States to re-consider its earlier decision to withdraw from UNESCO and appeals to all other nations to support UNESCO and to help the organisation in its humanitarian mission. He said that Jordan supports UNESCO's programme for 1986 and 1987 which is aimed to eradicate illiteracy in world nations.

Mr. Majali is heading Jordan's delegation to the meetings of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) currently being held in Sofia. During his meeting with the Bulgarian premier, Mr. Majali reviewed current efforts for establishing a just and durable Middle East settlement. Mr. Majali and his host discussed all aspects of the Palestine problem and His Majesty King Hussein's endeavours to establish peace and to restore the Palestinian people's rights. The meeting was attended by Dr. Sa'ad Al Tai, outgoing president of the UNESCO conference.

Later Mr. Majali met with the Bulgarian minister of education to discuss issues related to cooperation between the two countries in cultural affairs.

During the UNESCO meetings, it was announced that Jordan has been elected member of UNESCO's executive committee for the coming four years. Jordan will be represented at the committee meetings by Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali, the president of the University of Jordan.

Majali meets Bulgarian prime minister

Mr. Majali Monday met with Bulgarian Prime Minister George Filipov for discussions on cooperation between their two countries and ways for developing this cooperation.

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Energy minister returns from Britain

AMMAN — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib returned to Jordan Monday at the end of a week-long official visit to Britain at the invitation of the British government.

During his visit Dr. Khatib held talks with his British counterpart Peter Walker and British Minister of State for Energy David Hunt. The minister visited power generating stations, energy research centres as well as British companies working in Jordan in the fields of energy: electricity and geology.

During his visit to England Dr. Khatib was interviewed by the London-based Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) magazine. In the interview he outlined Jordan's energy policy and developments in oil exploration and the energy sector.

Discussing commercial oil production, Dr. Khatib said that oil is flowing in modest quantities from three wells at the Hamzeh field, on the border with Saudi Arabia and Iraq in the Azraq region. Several more wells are being drilled by contractors to the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) — Romania's Rompetrol and Yugoslavia's Naftagas.

On further exploration for oil he said: "We hope the fact that oil has been found in Jordan will encourage foreign exploration companies to come in and search for oil countrywide, and to take up concessions on a production-sharing basis. Several companies have already approached the

NRA — and we feel the potential is there."

Dr. Khatib went on to say that the Iraqi National Oil Company, in cooperation with the NRA, is doing seismic surveys in the Jordan Valley and around the Dead Sea — and he added that Jordan has access to World Bank expertise to draft an exploration contract that may result. Contacts with the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation are still only at discussion stage. "Our 1986 budget for exploration and research will be similar to that for 1985 — about \$35 million — but we expect slightly less to go on drilling costs," he said.

The minister continued that phase one of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station, the installation of two 130-MW units, is due to start up in mid-1986 and should be fully operational by year-end; phase two — to double installed capacity — is due for completion in 1990. Any further phase will depend on the results of loan demand studies to be commissioned from a U.S. consultant

— present electricity use is growing by 11 per cent a year, he said.

Discussing other hydrocarbons resources Dr. Khatib said West Germany's Kloeckner Wedag is doing a three-stage study of oil shale deposits at Lejjoun. "A general area investigation is now in progress; next a pilot plant will be tested, and then a full feasibility study will be commissioned. We would like to attract other companies to do similar work," he said.

On the subject of energy conservation Dr. Khatib said: "Unlike a mature economy — such as the U.K.'s — a developing country has no fat to shed. We can only aim for greater efficiency. We have managed to cut overall energy consumption growth to 3-4 per cent in 1984, from the previous annual average of 17 per cent. A massive public information campaign on waste is under way, and the Public Works Ministry has introduced a building code which lays down such standards as insulation.

Education Ministry presents prizes to young actresses

ZAR (Petra) — The Ministry of Education has honoured school girls from Zarqa who took part in an Islamic play, "Rah'a Al Adwiah." The ministry presented awards and cups to students who excelled in the performance. A

special ceremony was held on the occasion during which director general of education in Amman Governorate, Mr. Farouk Badran, paid tribute to the acting skills of the students and also expressed his appreciation to the organisers.

Talented local musician makes his mark on world's classical music circuit

By Jean Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Youssef Khasho, born in Jerusalem in 1927, is living proof that great musicians and composers do not necessarily come from Germany, England, France or the United States. His works already include twelve symphonies, ten of them already recorded. He has also written numerous arrangements and conducted well-known European orchestras in Berlin, Rome, Naples and Australia.

As a young boy Khasho started his musical studies in organ, piano, composition and conducting under the guidance of Professor Agostino Lama at the Schola Cantorum di Terra Santa in Palestine. Years later, from 1948 to 1955, he worked in neighbouring Arab countries bringing his invaluable contribution to the development of music in Jordan, Syria and Libya. He then emigrated to Australia but returned to Jordan in 1966 and founded the Jordanian Music Institute. During this year he also undertook the difficult project of forming a symphonic orchestra with Jordanian exclusively performers. He had to give up this enterprise due to lack of support.

The tragic symphony

The 1967 war gave Khasho inspiration to write one of his major

works, "Jerusalem Symphony." All the pain and sorrow of the tragic ending of this war is admirably expressed in the symphony. Unfortunately, the composer did not receive any sound offer from Arab countries, for the commissioning of his work and he finally had to do the recording at the Vatican.

In 1968 the maestro wrote "Joys of Jordan" for the wedding of his Royal Highness Prince Hassan. He then moved to Italy to conduct a concert of his own works. One must also mention two symphonies grouped under one title, "The Great Arab Revolution," which he composed in 1975, the symphony Nr. 4, "Hussein Ibn Ali," and the symphony Nr. 5, "Hussein Ibn Talal." In 1977, with the "Chian Rhapsody," performed by the Philharmonia Orchestra of London, conducted by Khasho himself and recorded at one of Europe's finest studios, the composer's art was at its peak.

Youssef Khasho is probably the only musician who has the talent and ability to integrate Arab melodies and musical phrases in the classical Western form of the symphonic orchestra while preserving the originality, the power and the beauty of both the Arabic and Western music heritages. In his opinion, it is perfectly possible to play Arabic music using the classical scale, without the need for quarter-tones. He likes to remind us that Al Farabi gave the Arab World its first music theory in the 9th Century.

Jordan's new building code — a seminal achievement

William Cordes
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's ambitious and unprecedented effort to create the first comprehensive national building code in the Arab World is finally bearing fruit, with five volumes published, five more due by the end of the year, and the remaining 13 volumes scheduled for completion during 1986.

The first five codes of the 23-volume Dustour Al Binaa to roll off the presses are Volume 2 — Loads and Forces, Volume 3 — Site Investigation, Volume 13 — Thermal Insulation, Volume 15 — Fire Prevention, and part of Volume 24 — Central Heating.

The Dustour Al Binaa is designed to remedy the current lack of any uniform standard of guidance regulating Jordan's building and construction industry. Dr. Daoud Jabaji, Director of the Royal Scientific Society's Building Research Centre, which is responsible for drafting and coordinating the production of the codes, explains the rationale behind the new National Building Code of Jordan: "Once he gets his building permit, there is (currently) no way the government or anybody can protect the owner from poor workmanship and poor quality of materials, because there are no laws, so the contractor can put up any rubbish he wants. I hope this (the code) will at least specify the minimum acceptable quality and give the citizen, or the client, some rights by law that protect against abuse by the contractor, or by the engineer, or by the plumber, electrician, and so forth."

According to Dr. Jabaji the need for a unified code became increasingly apparent during Jordan's construction boom from 1973-1982. American, British, German, Indian, East European, and Soviet building principles were applied in a patchwork fashion, depending on personal preference and where the engineer doing the work was educated. While out and out structural failure has been a rare occurrence as a result of this hodgepodge of guidelines, "the need to at least introduce a common language for us applied scientists to speak to each other" was glaringly obvious, said Dr. Jabaji.

Building construction in Jordan is currently governed by what are called building regulations, which specify things like the number of stories, the setback required from

the site, and certain architectural requirements. There are two such sets of guidelines, which differ somewhat, one for the Municipality of Amman and one used by the Ministry of Rural Affairs outside Amman. There are also limited number of standards governing the quality of construction materials available on the market.

The new National Building Code will be much more technical than these regulations, and essentially aims to define how a certain job should be done so that it is acceptable technically, both with regard to design and construction.

The Jordanian effort is the first

And the new code does include original contributions: "something like urban esthetics — nobody else has one. Urban esthetics is really a code for local authorities in little towns and villages — it helps them to do good zoning and to write better local rules and regulations."

The extent of Jordan's achievement goes beyond languages and comprehensiveness: "Another thing we're breaking new ground in is simply for Jordan, which is a small country, is being able to produce documents of this quality with the absolute minimum of typing errors, with good

quality of editing, indexing, and production — which I think we have done and of which I am very, very proud," said Dr. Jabaji.

It has, however, been a long and much-delayed process. The Higher Committee for the National Building Code of Jordan was set up by the Prime Minister four years ago, and the first deadline for completion of the code was the end of 1984. Dr. Jabaji blamed the sheer scope of the effort and organisational difficulties for the continuing delay in finishing the code. The Higher Committee has a technical arm called the Permanent Technical Committee for the National Building Code of Jordan, composed of 16 members chosen for their expertise, and

be rushed into it. And I think they're quite justified in this... before they say they have finished the job they must be absolutely satisfied they have done their best. This has been our weakness. We as the working group finished the initial drafts a long time ago, something like a year ago. And now it's a huge headache simply organising, and you can imagine the administrative details of setting up 23 meetings a week for 23 committees. And we only have two meeting rooms, so it isn't easy."

Dr. Jabaji added that the committees had gained a lot of experience during the past years, and that this should speed production of the remaining codes.

Another problem is emerging now that five codes have been

charged with reviewing the final drafts of the code and recommending adoption to the Higher Committee.

Each code, or each volume of the Dustour Al Binaa, is produced one-by-one by its own drafting or working committee and a specialised technical committee which reviews the drafts before they are sent to the Permanent Committee. The system is cumbersome, but seems necessary.

Dr. Jabaji explains: "The problem with this code is that we have been unable to finish it in the time we promised to, because technical committees absolutely refuse to

be charged with reviewing the final drafts of the code and recommending adoption to the Higher Committee. The Higher Committee for the National Building Code must work within the laws and rules of the state, and appears to have two options in order to place the force of law behind the codes. First, the Ministry of Public Works is authorised to regulate the building and construction industry in Jordan, and may under this authority be empowered to make the codes compulsory. The ministry's lawyers are currently examining this issue. The second option may be for the Ministry of Industry, which has a department for standards and specifications, to implement the new building codes.

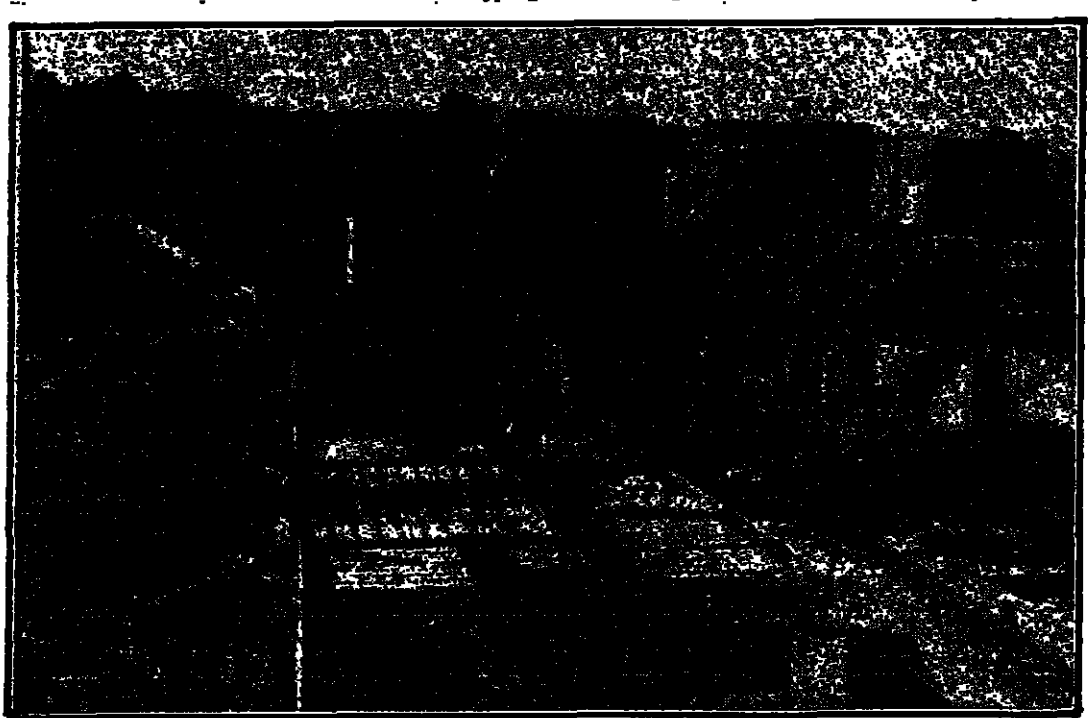
Once a way is found to make the codes mandatory, the problem of enforcement may become an even more difficult obstacle to surmount. Dr. Jabaji explained that application and enforcement of the codes will require an increase in qualified manpower in municipalities and rural areas — engineers at the ministerial level and inspectors at the local, at a time when an increase in the number of public servants is neither politically palatable nor fiscally feasible.

A possible solution may be to use the engineering consulting offices themselves, by designating a certain number to be certifiers, with regulation to prevent abuses. A similar system is currently employed in Germany.

Whatever the final method of implementation, the Dustour Al Binaa will represent a seminal achievement in the Arab World. Dr. Jabaji noted that "Now there are attempts at coordination between the different Arab countries. We are 'the tip of the spear,' all the others have to follow. The Arab League Office of Standards and Specifications is trying to organise a committee, which already has seven countries as members, in fact, so that the other countries would take these codes which we produced as the initial draft, and see what work they feel needs to be done on them, so that eventually the seven Arab countries would have a uniform building code."

Dr. Jabaji had to laugh when the summarised the evolution of creating a new building code. "When we first started with the idea we were ridiculed... people were not convinced that in fact it was necessary. Now, we're being shouted at because we're late in producing the books." It would seem to be the price of success.

Another problem is emerging now that five codes have been



In spite of the numerous construction sites dotting the hillsides of Amman, there is no comprehensive building code for engineers or architects to abide by (J.T. file photo)

Jordan Times

Of animals, violence, terror and zoo-keepers

By Rami G. Khouri

THE MIDDLE EAST and areas further afield are still feeling the repercussions of the vicious cycle of violence that started almost a month ago. During the past month, the statement that has stuck most in my mind was United States Secretary of State George Shultz' reference to the four Palestinian hijackers of the Italian cruise ship as "animals."

Of course, Mr. Shultz is correct to refer to the hijackers as "animals," for only people with beastly minds would hijack an Italian cruise liner, and then find it appropriate to kill an innocent and partly paralysed elderly man, and dump his body into the sea.

The real issue, though, is not to identify animals, but rather how people become animals, and how normal children grow up and develop a psyche that sanctions violent killing, even the murder of innocent third party civilians who are not directly involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The fact is, however, much Mr. Shultz and his fellow humanists in the West prefer to avoid it — if the hijackers are animals, Mr. Shultz may be viewed as a zoo-keeper whose actions continue to breed animals throughout the world. It may be politically propitious and morally comforting for Mr. Shultz to call hijackers "animals." He should recognize, however, being wise, experienced and

usually reasonable, that animals are bred, not born. How is it that Palestinian animals have been bred so frequently in recent decades?

I am certainly not in the business of condoning or supporting terrorism, but I feel strongly that the only sure way to eliminate terrorism is to recognise the reasons why it takes place, and then to eliminate those reasons, and let the animals return to the business of being human beings. I believe the vast majority of Palestinians and Arabs feel that Palestinian terrorism is ill-advised and politically harmful. The problem of terrorism is very real, and will not go away by itself, or by a resort to the vocabulary of anguish. By focussing heavily on terrorism as an isolated and self-generating evil that must be destroyed by the Good Guys of the world, Mr. Shultz increases the likelihood that terrorism itself will become a desperate and self-perpetuating reaction to the political and intellectual narrowness of Western politicians who wrap themselves in the cloaks of statesmen and moralists.

The likes of those such as Mr. Shultz who place a premium on morality would do well to retreat to a quiet mountaintop and reflect more deeply on the historical dynamics of the Arab-Israeli conflict — on how it is that some Palestinians have reached the con-

clusion, however flawed or counter-productive, that terrorism is the best way to fight one's battle to secure a homeland and a degree of dignity and rights enjoyed by most other people in this world.

I am far more impressed by the reaction of Americans such as Washington Post columnist Stephen Rosenfeld, who wrote last week: "We are in danger of drawing too easy a lesson from the Achille Lauro affair, the lesson that the chief enemy is terrorism... The reality is that terrorism is not self-creating and self-sustaining; it does not arise simply from a determination to destroy the Jewish state... Rather, terrorism, political terrorism, Palestinian terrorism, arises from a plain, identifiable and, I would say, treatable political grievance. Palestinian homellessness. This is, for Israel, truly the chief enemy."

How simple, and how true. No need to call in the vituperation brigade here. Some Palestinians adopt terror because they see no other way to secure a homeland, or the world's attention. Allow them to have a home, and their terror tactics will disappear.

Mr. Shultz would do well to ponder this simple point, that some Palestinians turn to terrorism when they feel there is no other way to achieve their legitimate and God-given right to live

in their own country in freedom and dignity. Some Lebanese people turned to terror against Israel and the United States when they became fed up with the American-financed Israeli occupation of southern Lebanon. American-financed Afghan rebels do the same thing in their country. The African National Congress does the same in South Africa. SWAPO does the same in Namibia. The world is full of animals.

The cycle of terrorism in the Middle East is long, and complex. It is not the exclusive tool of the Palestinians. The Jewish underground movements of the 1930s and 1940s used terrorism against the Palestinians, the British and the United Nations forces. The United States itself has negotiated with, funded, armed or otherwise dealt with liberation movements and guerrilla forces around the world who have regularly engaged in various degrees of terror, including the army of the state of Israel.

The massive, sustained saturation bombing of North Vietnamese cities by American forces in the late 1960s and early 1970s, and the United States' use of napalm, defoliants and other chemical weapons against Vietnamese civilians and military targets, was an example of selective and del-

iberate "terror" that will long be remembered as one of the most futile exercises in military overkill in modern history. You can call it "pre-emptive retaliation" or "precision bombing" or whatever else suits your fancy. When innocent civilians are killed in the process, the adventure has been one of terror all the same, whether committed by Palestinian youth, Israeli fighter pilots, or American B-52 bombers.

What is the common denominator in all of these cases? What drives otherwise rational people, such as Zionist and Palestinian men fighting for what they perceive to be their rights, and American presidents and secretaries of states fighting for what they believe is right, to use military force against targets that are sometimes military, sometimes civilian?

If terror is wrong — and we all believe it is — one would expect Mr. Shultz to recognise that all terror is wrong, no matter who practices it, funds it, or suffers from it. Why did Mr. Shultz not find it appropriate to say that the killers of Alex Odeh, the Arab-American leader in California, were "animals"?

However much we all detest the cycle of violence and terror, we will only defeat it when we repudiate the tactics of the terrorists, rather than emulate them while

wearing three-piece suits. Mr. Shultz knows very well why young Palestinians and Lebanese and other Arabs go around now and then taking hostages, killing innocent people and generally terrorising a complacent world. He knows the role of the United States in looking at the Arab-Israeli conflict primarily through Israeli eyes, demands, and fears. And I suspect that he knows, but will not admit, that if the Arab-Israeli conflict has bred many animals in its time, it has done so partly on the strength of the food that the United States, among others, has thrown to those animals to make them more ferocious and indiscriminate.

I find it unreasonable, to put it mildly, that Washington's condemnation of terror should remain so vehement when the gun is in an Arab hand, and so tepid when the gun is in the hands of those whom the United States itself arms, funds or supports, in the Middle East or elsewhere.

One gets the impression that the United States is more outraged by the terror committed by Palestinian animals than by the terror of other animals. Mr. Shultz should know that we are with him in his battle against universal terrorism. If he would only stop feeding the animals and giving them sustenance, it would be easier to round them up.

Major step forward

A MAJOR STEP towards restoring Arab solidarity and joint Arab action was taken yesterday by the prime minister, Mr. Zaid Al Rifai, and his Syrian counterpart, Abdul Raouf Al Kasm, following the conclusion of their second round of talks in Riyadh. The outcome of the talks is a breakthrough in itself, both on the bilateral and pan-Arab levels, and as such it augurs well for the future.

More than at any time before, the Arab World is in dire need of closing ranks around a solid position and we are optimistic that true reconciliation between Jordan and Syria will usher in a new era for Arab unity and our cause.

The points of agreement that were announced by Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah yesterday constitute the right basis for the true Arab solidarity which Jordan has always sought and worked for. Without this solidarity, little could be achieved, we have always maintained, and it is now up to all of us to make it work.

A Jordanian-Syrian reconciliation should open the door for the rest of Arabs to settle their differences and disputes, and we hope this could be done soon, ahead of the Arab summit conference which is scheduled for Riyadh next month.

It is in this context that we look to Saudi Arabia to continue its efforts aimed at bringing all Arabs together. Prince Abdullah has done a great deal in this respect and we have to be grateful to his crucial role in the mediation process.

As the points of agreements have emphasised, the Riyadh meeting will be followed by talks here and in Damascus between Jordanian and Syrian officials. As we look forward to these talks to solve outstanding issues in bilateral relations, we have to step up the political struggle for a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem. This is going to be the real test of our joint endeavours, but we are confident that with genuine and sincere efforts a great deal can be done.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Unity is the word

AS THE Syrian and Jordanian prime ministers embarked on a new round of talks in Saudi Arabia, members of their delegation expressed their utmost keenness on achieving a successful outcome that will enable the Arabs to regain their joint action and enable them to coordinate their policies and stands.

If the news about possible inclusion of Iraqi officials in the talks were true then the positive results would be warmly welcomed by all Arabs everywhere. The superpowers who are known to be hostile to one another are currently preparing for a summit meeting which has been described as decisive.

President Reagan is contemplating a meeting with his European partners in the NATO alliance in order to get well prepared for such an important meeting. We hope that the Arab countries will do the same thing and prepare for a summit meeting by holding preparatory talks by officials similar to those now meeting in Riyadh so as to make their summit a success.

The world does not respect a weak and divided nation and, therefore, the Arabs must seriously consider their position and unify their stands in the face of the common challenges.

The American-Soviet summit can focus attention on the Middle East region only if we, the Arabs, are united in our actions and in objectives.

Al Dustour: Hopes for reconciliation

THE ARAB masses are optimistic about the outcome of the new round of talks between the prime ministers of Jordan and Syria now going on in Saudi Arabia. They are optimistic that the talks will lead to a reconciliation between the two neighbouring countries and so help re-establish Arab solidarity.

The success of the talks means a good chance for the coming Arab summit to achieve success. It is true that the two neighbours have been at odds about a number of Arab issues but these issues can be solved through the good offices of the Arab mediation committee led by Saudi Arabia.

The leaders of the two countries realise that their differences have their adverse effects on the general Arab situation and such differences tend to weaken the Arab stand in the face of the common Israeli enemy. The optimism now prevailing in the Arab World as a result of this meeting will be enhanced if the talks achieve a breakthrough and bring about reconciliation. We attach great hopes to the meeting, and we hope that it can put an end to the divisions in Arab ranks and help the Arab nation take a strong stand, and unify its position before the world and before our enemies.

It should be emphasised that Jordan which is truly committed to national Arab causes is also the most affected by the Israeli occupation of Arab land and bears the brunt of its consequences. The people of Jordan hope that the Riyadh meeting will help reestablish joint action to end such a situation.

Sawt Al Shaab: Looking to Riyadh's meeting

ARAB PEOPLE'S attention is now directed towards Riyadh where a second round of talks between Jordanian and Syrian prime ministers are under way. All Arab masses are hopeful that the new round will yield fruitful results and achieve reconciliation between the two neighbouring countries. If the talks are successful they mean an end to differences and a step nearer to solidarity among Arab countries.

Ending of differences is the first step that must be taken on the road of joint action in the face of common challenges. Agreement on joint action means coordination of efforts for ending the Iran-Iraq war and Israel's occupation of Arab lands.

Ending differences among Arabs will be a great achievement in the present circumstances prevailing in the Arab region including Israel's escalation of aggression on Arab states.

The meeting in Riyadh constitutes a major challenge for all the Arabs and if it is successful the Arab masses' hopes will be increased and their confidence in the future enhanced.

Are Israelis involved in South America?

By Ignacio Klich

ARE ISRAELI military advisers training the anti-Sandinista contras? Nicaragua's president, Daniel Ortega, says yes. In a recent first interview for the Israeli press, he charged that the U.S.-backed Nicaraguan Democratic Force (FDN) has received both arms and training from Jerusalem.

Hard facts on the Israeli presence in FDN camps in Honduras are not easy to come by, but in February, 1984, the daily Israeli Davar interviewed an Israeli mercenary, back from assignment in Central America, who revealed that fellow countrymen were employed in training and supervision and paid up to \$10,000 a month. Recruitment, he said, was handled by foreigners with excellent Israeli connections.

But where Davar had claimed that Israeli mercenaries were not officially sponsored, it carried a more recent report suggesting otherwise. Davar has now found an Israeli who asserted that mercenary activities are not only known to the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) but also aided by IDF manuals and catalogues. The mercenaries appear to be IDF seconded personnel.

Israel, however, officially denies aiding the contras. But the denials do not contradict Ortega. Instead they lend indirect support to his allegations. Following the Ortega interview, for instance, an Israeli Foreign Ministry statement, emphatically denying that Israel sells arms to the contras directly, avoided the issue of the advisers while failing to deny all military transfers.

Prime Minister, Shimon Peres, has told American senators that Ortega's charges were "far-fetched." Insofar as arms for the FDN are paid for by the U.S. and delivered to Honduras, Israel can claim it neither sells nor supplies directly, even though the identity of the end-users is no secret in Tel Aviv.

Tel Aviv's disclaimers have not hampered its involvement. Earlier this year, an authoritative Washington defence weekly reported that surface to air missiles which FDN leaders claimed they had received came from Israel's stock of Soviet-made Sam-7s, captured from the PLO in Lebanon.

— The Guardian

The U.N. at 40: Little achieved, the spirit holds

By Nick Ludington

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations marks its 40th anniversary this week with speeches by 40 more world leaders, while Western industrialised powers hold an almost-simultaneous meeting in New York to prepare for next month's U.S.-Soviet summit.

The round of pomp and diplomacy has strained New York's security forces, and annoyed some U.N. delegates who feel the Western summit will detract from the U.N. ceremonies. U.N. officials respond diplomatically by saying the Western powers' conference shows the value of the United Nations for international consultations.

Amid the other diplomatic activity, Nancy Reagan, wife of U.S. President Ronald Reagan, will be at the United Nations Monday to host a meeting on drug abuse for more than 30 wives of world leaders.

The U.N. anniversary speeches, which have been going on for several weeks, resume Monday with addresses by seven presidents, one king, five prime ministers, three vice presidents and four foreign ministers. About 40 more dignitaries will speak Tuesday and Wednesday.

Leading off, to the chagrin of some U.S. officials, will be President Daniel Ortega Saavedra of Nicaragua.

Speakers Thursday will include Reagan, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain, Chinese Prime Minister Zhao Ziyang and French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

The ceremonies will end later Thursday with a "solemn ceremony" including addresses by Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar of Peru and General Assembly President Jaime de Pinies of Spain. The assembly will issue a declaration reaffirming the principles of the U.N. charter which came into force Oct. 24, 1945.

Next year will also be pro-

claimed "The International Year of Peace."

In anniversary speeches last week and three earlier weeks of General Assembly addresses that are also officially considered part of the anniversary celebration, 162 statesmen have addressed the assembly.

If the same tone is followed this week, the speakers will say the United Nations has not lived up to its bright promise. But the fault is not in the organisation, most speakers have said, but in the will of the member states, particularly the superpowers, to abide by U.N. decisions.

Few specific suggestions for improving the United Nations have been heard. The speakers have, however, unanimously agreed that the world is better off with the Organisation, and that it should be strengthened.

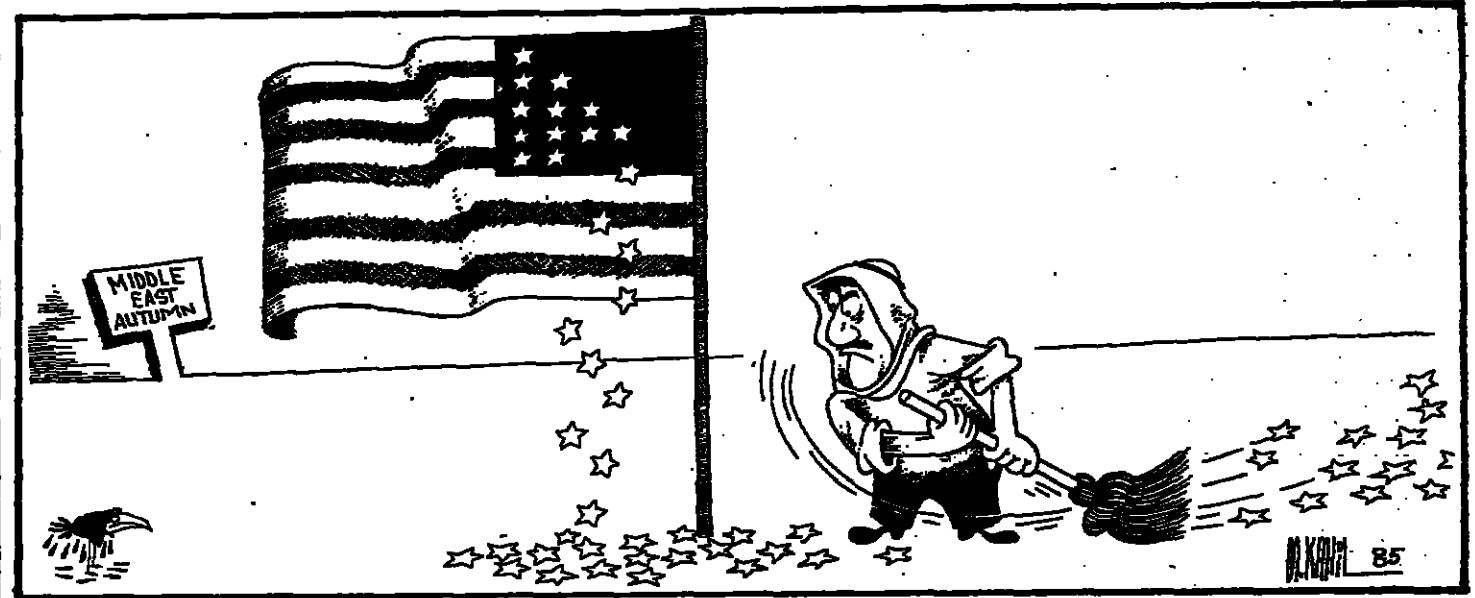
The overworked protocol section at the United Nations has so far carried off its duties without a bruised ego. "But next week is the real test," said Aly Teymour, U.N. chief of protocol.

A triple layer of security surrounds the visiting leaders. Each has his own bodyguards and State Department or secret service agents. The New York police are leading traffic-snarl motorcades, have set up a special communications unit in vans across from U.N. headquarters and have posted police snipers on rooftops around the U.N. buildings.

The United Nations has bolstered its own security force by bringing in the extra officers from U.N. offices in Europe.

President Reagan will use the gathering for a summit to consult with leaders of Japan, Britain, Canada, Italy and West Germany on his November meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union.

The six will meet Thursday after the U.N. ceremonies and dine together Thursday night. Absent will be President Francois Mitterrand of France, who was invited but refused to attend.



Egypt unlikely to shift foreign policy

By Kate Dourian

Reuter

CAIRO — Egypt's close ties with the United States and its controversial relations with Israel have taken a battering this month, but Western diplomats and Egyptian officials say a major foreign policy shift is unlikely.

When U.S. jet fighters forced down an Egyptian plane carrying the four hijackers of the Italian cruise liner Achille Lauro last week, feelings were already running high against both countries because of Israel's Oct. 1 air raid on the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) headquarters in Tunis.

Since the interception of the Egyptian Boeing 737, President Hosni Mubarak has come under pressure from some opposition leaders and student demonstrators to end Cairo's special ties with the United States. But indications are that Mr. Mubarak, who said he felt per-

sonally hurt by Washington's operation, will allow events to take their course and make no dramatic changes.

"There is a good deal of resentment among the public now and we have to allow the dust to settle a bit," a senior Foreign Ministry official said.

"We must let the pent-up feelings and frustrations express themselves first."

Egypt was angry "because the Americans took us for granted," the official said.

But Cairo, which receives more than \$2 billion a year in vital U.S. economic and military aid, was not about to "bite the hand that feeds it" by allowing the strain with Washington to develop into permanent damage, he added.

By opting to turn the four Palestinian hijackers over to the PLO — even though the U.S. Navy planes later forced them to Italy — Mr. Mubarak earned points with some Arab critics, diplomats said.

Egypt was ostracised by most Arab states after signing a U.S.-sponsored peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

Jordan restored relations with Cairo last year and then launched a fresh initiative for a Middle East settlement in which Egypt backed joint Jordanian-PLO efforts to get talks started with Washington as a prelude to contacts with Israel.

Egyptian officials dispute forecasts by Western diplomats that Mr. Mubarak may seek a rapprochement with the Arabs on the strength of Arab sympathy after the U.S. interception.

"The equation in the Arab World will have to change first and so far nothing has changed," one official said, adding that Arab sympathy had been limited to rhetoric.

He said the U.S. operation, straight after President Reagan's support for the Tunis air raid, was a blow to peace efforts — but a sign from Washington showing it

wanted to pursue those efforts could rectify the damage.

"There is little the (peace) partners can do at this point without a U.S. move. The ball is in the U.S. court," the official said.

He said Mr. Mubarak, in trying to hand the hijackers to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat for trial, wanted "to give Mr. Arafat a boost and a chance to prove that he is a moderate and not a terrorist."

The official said the president feared that delivering the hijackers to Italy or the U.S. would have led to a spate of "terrorism."

The four men, members of a pro-Arafat faction, now face trial in Italy for seizing the Achille Lauro off Egypt on Oct. 7 and killing an American passenger.

The affair did nothing to improve the climate of Israeli-Egyptian relations, already damaged by the Tunis raid after which Mr. Mubarak called off scheduled talks with the Israelis on a Sinai territorial dispute.

An American arms dealer gets a taste of U.S. covert aid to Afghan rebels

By Alan Fram

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Dominick Spadea says he is not sure how Afghanistan's anti-Soviet rebels found out about the submachine pistol his company makes.

He does know that the guerrillas dangled big money before his 5-year-old firm: A potential 10-million-dollar contract.

So when the deal developed snags, Spadea approached the staff of U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg.

It was a complex problem that ultimately included the Central Intelligence Agency, the State Department, the Senate Foreign Relations and Intelligence Committees, a gun lobbyist and an organisation representing the Afghan insurgents.

The predicament thrust the unwitting Spadea and his Jersey Arms Works of Westmont, New Jersey, into the knotty terrain of covert American aid and Soviet-American-Pakistani relations.

"I'm a businessman and I want to make a sale," said Spadea. "There are many ideologies and political considerations in this, and I want to avoid that. All we want to do is find out if our government will approve a bona fide sale to the rebels."

Spadea says he simply wanted to sell thousands of the concealable machine guns he manufactures directly to the anti-government Afghan fighters.

In August, the State Dep-

artment — following U.S. government policy that bars overt military aid to the rebels — told him no.

The guerrillas, who have been fighting the government since 1979, receive covert military aid from the United States and other countries, most of it clandestinely funneled through neighbouring Pakistan.

Government officials will not publicly discuss that assistance, or even acknowledge that it exists. But it is a system that sources say involves hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

"To ask for an overt programme is to ask Pakistan to declare war on Afghanistan," said Paul Young, aide to Republican Senator Gordon Humphrey, who has sought increased assistance to the rebels. "Right now, we deny we have a covert programme and Pakistan denies that they are helping."

Spadea had other concerns.

His firm developed the S-7 Avenger submachine pistol, a 45-caliber, lightweight weapon that can empty its 30-round clip in two seconds. It sells for \$369.

But because they are considered machine guns, it has been hard to sell them in the United States, where automatic weapons are tightly regulated.

Hence, he sought customers overseas.

Late this summer, he says, he heard that the Afghan resistance movement wanted to purchase thousands of the guns.

Andrew Eiva, executive director of the Federation for American-Afghan Action, which lobbies for the rebels, said, "weapons manufactured in the U.S. are not at the top of the guerrilla shopping list. There are better ones manufactured elsewhere. But Dom's goods are particularly interesting because of price, and their usefulness and reliability for urban guerrilla operations."

Spadea said he believes the rebels' interest in his weapons was generated at a June gathering of anti-Communist guerrilla groups in Angola. That session was sponsored by Lewis Lehrman, the conservative activist who in 1982 ran unsuccessfully for governor of New York.

Spadea asked the State Department for permission to make the sale, but received a one-line response reading, "such an application would be denied."

Spadea complained to Larry Pratt, executive director of Gun Owners of America, a lobbying group in suburban Falls Church, Virginia.

Pratt took up Spadea's cause. He said he believed that operating a well-publicised covert programme but refusing to supply weapons with American markings is a "fine point."

Pratt wrote legislation that would require the U.S. government to approve export licenses for the sale of automatic weapons to Afghan rebels, as long as the dealer could convince the State Department that the wea-

pons would not fall into the wrong hands.

Spadea brought the bill to Lautenberg. In the following days, Spadea, Pratt, and Eiva repeatedly pressed the senator's staff on the bill.

"The covert programme allows much of the aid to be distributed according to Pakistan's own agenda," said Eiva. "Only a small part of the money is getting through. Mr. Spadea's case was a nice effort to get more direct aid to the rebels."

Lautenberg's aides spoke to staff members of the Senate Intelligence and Foreign Relations Committees, the State Department and other Capitol Hill sources.

They decided the legislation would dramatically alter government policy, and suggested that Spadea might try becoming a supplier in the CIA's covert programme.

But Spadea said his firm had little chance of being accepted by the CIA.

"I really believe they use an old-boy network of arms firms," he said. "Jersey Arms Works is a small and unknown manufacturer, and I have no way of penetrating that. I wouldn't even know where to begin. What am I supposed to do, call (CIA director William) Bill Casey?"

CIA spokeswoman Kathy Pherson declined to comment on the agency's covert arms programme or on Spadea.

Spadea says he will keep trying.

السلامة العامة

Excavations at polar Arab caravan cities reveal harmony with other cultures, indigenous style

On Sept. 24, an international symposium on Petra and the Arab caravan cities opened in the Nabataean city. Rami G. Khouri, participated in the six-day symposium. In the following article, the third of five, he sums up the various papers presented during the symposium and comments on their contents.

Text and Photos
by Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

PETRA — Dr. Adnan Boumni of Syria discussed his excavations of the Temple of Nabu at Palmyra, with its "happy harmony among Syrian, Hellenistic and Roman traditions."

The Temple of Nabu was built according to a Roman Vitruvian architectural plan, incorporated Syro-Hellenistic elements, and honoured a god of Babylonian origin. In use between the late 1st and early 3rd Century A.D., the Temple of Nabu at Palmyra is a good example of "cultural influences from east and west meeting in the Arab caravan cities," Dr. Boumni noted.

Two other scholars used examples from Palmyra to make a similar point. Professor Klaus Parlasca of West Germany wondered whether the Palmyrene adoption of classical western motifs in dress and architecture were only "optical borrowings," designed "as proof of one's political loyalty to the mighty Romans."

A closer look at private practices at Palmyra, such as burial customs and sepulchral symbolism, presents "better proof of personal religious feeling than official ceremonial procedures connected with worship to the official gods."

He pointed out classical themes in the paintings of the Tomb of Three Brothers, such as mythological representations of Achilles among the daughters of King

Lycomedes on the island of Skyros, and the rape of the Ganymedes by the eagle of Zeus. These two myths only took on sepulchral significance in the Roman period — but are found in the personal tombs of citizens of an important Arab kingdom and trading centre.

Dr. Parlasca said that the Palmyrenes' adoption of the special funerary meaning of these classical myths "was obviously integrated into the personal beliefs of the population" of that Arab city, indicating a fairly strong impact of "western" ideas on this sector of Palmyra's civilisation.

Andreas Schmidt-Colinet of West Germany said the architecture of tomb number 36 at Palmyra, built around 200 A.D., "shows a special mixture of eastern (Parthian), indigenous (Palmyran/Nabataean) and western (Greco-Roman) elements."

Most of the building's architectural reliefs exhibit purely Greco-Roman funerary symbolism (such as muses, theatre masks, or victories holding shells with portraits of the dead), while other reliefs reflect a native Oriental tradition (such as Dionysos/Baalshamin sitting in the vineyards, a god with marine monsters around his head).

He concluded: "This syncretism proves again the strength of indigenous religious traditions, and the limits to Greco-Roman influences, even during the 'Romanized' period of this caravan city."

Taking the circle of cultural in-

fluences on the Arabian caravan cities further afield was Professor Abdul Rahman al Ansari of King Saud University, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He showed that foreign influences on the 4th Century B.C. to 4th Century A.D. caravan city of Qaryet el Fau, in south-west Arabia, came simultaneously from Egypt, India, Greece, Nabataea, Mesopotamia and Parthia.

Among the excavated objects from Qaryet el Fau were late Hellenistic style frescoes dating from the 2nd and 3rd Centuries A.D., a statue of Hercules, alabaster animal figurines, a bronze dolphin, lion's head chair handles and door knockers, Nabataean style painted pottery, and imported Parthian glazed pottery. All reflect cultural influences from very different and distant regions, whose common factor was that they were all connected to south-western Arabia via the trade routes of the classical Middle East.

Professor Werner Vycichl of Switzerland noted how the Nabataean process of sedentarisation drew on a broad regional cultural repertoire, including the architectural column from Phoenicia and Mesopotamia, and the Egyptian use of statues to represent living images of gods.

While the Nabataeans borrowed elements from neighbouring cultures, they also had their indigenous architectural elements, such as cisterns, houses and nefeshes, the latter being the pyramidal representations commemorating departed souls. He also pointed out that the Nabataean representation of a dolphin god, parallels the same imagery in Egypt, Phoenicia and the Greco-Roman heartland.

Professor Ernest Will of France discussed the pre-eminence of



The once-nomadic Nabataeans may have borrowed the architectural column from Phoenicia or Mesopotamia — but developed their own style of columns using many small, squat drums, as seen here at the Temple of the Winged Lions in Petra.

Roman period 'naikoi', or small architectural shrines typically with a central altar or column surrounded by pillars. They have been found throughout the Middle East, particularly in Lebanon and Syria.

He traces the prototypes of these unique monuments to Phoenicia and possibly even to Egypt, but prefers to see their origin in a more vague "Syrian area, so far very incompletely explored."

In the Greco-Roman period, he says, the inhabitants of the Middle East, including the caravan city dwellers, "reinterpreted this Oriental prototype", without

modifying its religious function, thereby providing "another good reason to speak of the strong ties between the caravan cities and the West-Semitic peoples."

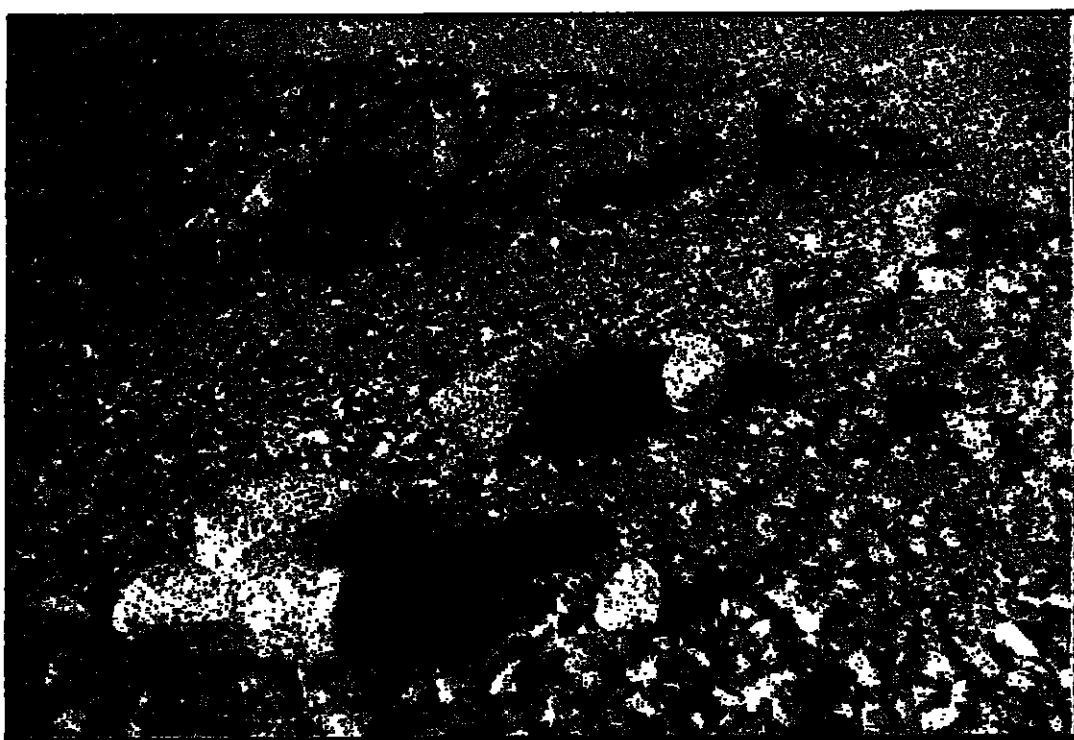
In his review of the history of the site of Udrub, 16 kilometres east of Petra, Dr. Alistair Killick of the United Kingdom provided a fine example of a smaller and less spectacular settlement than the other big caravan cities — but one whose long human occupation nevertheless provided the mechanism for the interaction of natives and foreigners in this area.

Udrub was inhabited in the Iron Age, the Nabataean and Roman

periods, the Byzantine era and the Islamic period, providing a continuity of human occupation spanning nearly 2000 years.

In the mid-1st Century A.D., Udrub seems to change its character from a simple caravan stop to a fortified caravan city. After the Romans occupied southern Jordan in the 2nd Century A.D., it developed into a full fledged Roman legionary fortress.

As Dr. Killick suggested, "the excavations at Udrub add to our knowledge of the continuity of human occupation in south Jordan, where no caravan sites have been excavated outside Petra."



An Ionic-style capital (left foreground) and other architectural elements scattered on the ground at Udrub attest to the introduction of Hellenistic cultural and artistic concepts after the late 4th Century B.C.

Revolution adopts royal heritage in ancient city

By Hugh Pope
Reuter

ISFAHAN, Iran — If you want to live like the late Shah of Iran for a day, come to Isfahan and check into his old suite at the Abbasi Hotel.

For 300 dollars you can sleep in the austere, regal rooms, modestly called an apartment by the revolutionary management of the hotel, a 16th century caravanserai. In line with Islamic law's respect for property, everything in this old camel traders' two-storey hostel is immaculately maintained — right down to the padlocked hotel bars, which see no business today because of Iran's strict ban on alcohol.

Isfahan, its low houses built along a river flowing from the Zagros mountain range in the centre of Iran, was the capital of the Safavid Shahs who unified the country in 1501.

Its old royal mosques, built by ruling dynasties to honour Iran's state religion, were adopted as the revolution's own by the Shi'ite clergy who took control of Iran in 1979.

A poster of Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini is pasted to the floral tiles by the entrance to the former Shah mosque, now the Imam Khomeini mosque.

Instead of crowds of Western tourists, its flagstoned courtyard is filled with scaffolding, used to support canvas to shield worshippers at big prayer meetings from rain and sun.

Outside prayer hours, small groups of Iranians visit to marvel at the blue-tiled domes and lofty porches. To hear the seven echoes of the double-skinned dome, children clap hands and shout "Allah-O-Akbar" (God is Great) or revolutionary slogans.

Isfahanis take pride in having been at the forefront of the revolution. The ousted regime declared martial law here a month earlier than anywhere else. The mosques, even the tile-work signed by the Pahlavi Shahs, survived the revolution intact.

But the five-year old conflict with Iraq has taken a toll on the city's heritage beyond Isfahan's war dead, whose young faces stare from pictures displayed along

the pavements of some main streets during "war week" last month. Captured Iraqi tanks were on show at major crossroads.

The city and a big air force base nearby were bombed by Iraqi jets this year. In March, the Great Friday mosque, parts of it dating back 1,000 years to the Buyid dynasty was hit.

The bombs destroyed 14 arches of a large Buyid prayer hall, away from the central court of the Mosque and religious school complex. The cost of repairs was put at \$300,000.

Worse hit was the adjacent bazaar, where some 50 people were said to have been killed, many of them Afghan refugees who have become a common sight in Iran since the 1979 Soviet invasion of neighbouring Afghanistan.

The brick vaulted shopping area has been rebuilt with slate plaques commemorating the dead. It joins the other covered streets of the city with banks, estate agents and rows of shops.

Tribesmen in many costumes walk the streets, especially lurs with domed felt hats, jerkin and baggy trousers, who come to buy supplies for their villages. Foreigners have become rare objects of curiosity.

The shops on the arcades of the great central square of the city offer a wide variety of souvenirs. Iranian tourists buy carpets, pistachio nougat, hand printed clothes, hammered metal trays, and delicately painted Persian miniatures.

Armenian Christians, whom the Safavids Shahs brought from Transcaucasia as craftsmen to help build the city, still live in Jolfa, their quarter with its distinctive domed churches. Armenians say the community, once 60,000-strong, now numbers about 5,000 people.

The Abbasi hotel itself is expensive for Iranians.

A few guests — the women wrapped in black chadors — order the regular menu of lamb, rice and coca-cola in a fabulous restaurant under glittering chandeliers. They are silently watched by ornate Persian wall paintings of picnic scenes and dancing girls from another era.

Jordan rejects Peres proposal

(Continued from page 1)

prime ministers, said Jordan and Syria have reached a three-point political accord based on adherence to the 1982 Arab peace plan adopted at the Foz summit which said any Middle East peace should be achieved through an international conference to be held under the auspices of the United Nations with the participation of all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The authoritative source in Amman, pointing out that His Majesty King Hussein, in his Sept. 27 address at the U.N. General Assembly, stressed the importance of holding an international conference to hijack the peace.

In the interview, Mr. Mubarak also expressed surprise that four people could take over a ship with 350 crewmembers and said the possibility of collusion between the sailors and the hijackers needed study.

He denied that he had delayed the departure of the hijackers as a favour to the United States, but later added with a smile: "I'm very glad that this interception of the jetliner raised the morale of the Americans. It's very good. We did something for you."

The Abu Dhabi-based Al Ittihad newspaper, quoting informed Egyptian sources, said Monday that Cairo had asked both Tunisia and Iraq to take the hijackers. Iraqi permission came after three hours, the newspaper quoted the sources as saying, but the Tunisian permission had come earlier and therefore it was decided to send the hijackers to Tunis.

In Beirut, Amal leader Nabih Berri denied fighting was imminent. He told reporters: "There is no truth whatsoever to these reports."

In a dispatch from Damascus later on Monday, Reuter quoted informed sources as saying Syrian-backed Lebanese and Palestinian groups were meeting there to discuss ways of disarming the Palestinian refugee camps in Beirut amid fears of fresh clashes.

The Damascus sources said the Lebanese National Unity Front sought help from the Palestine National Salvation Front on Thursday to disarm the camps to help end fighting and re-establish security in Beirut.

But they said the Damascus-based Palestinian group demanded that they had full control over the camps.

The Lebanese front comprises the Communist Party, the Progressive Socialist Party, the Syrian Nationalist Social Party and the Baath Party.

ference on the Middle East to be attended by the five permanent members of the Security Council, including the Soviet Union, and all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict, said U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar was the proper authority to convene such a conference.

The source said Jordan's stance concerning the Middle East conflict is "well-known to the world" and "these well-known facts in the Jordanian policy are the reply to the Peres' proposal or any other proposal, to be put forward now or in the future."

"Based on its declared stance, Jordan categorically rejects any partial solution or separate settlement," the source added.

Jordan, Syria reach accord

(Continued from page 1)

the guidance of His Majesty King Hussein and President Hafez Al Assad of Syria. The Saudi leader also thanked King Hussein and President Assad in the name of King Fahd Ibn Abdul Aziz and also the mediation committee for their strenuous efforts in reaching "this constructive result."

The mediation committee, which includes Arab League Secretary-General Chadli Kibi and Tunisian Prime Minister Mohammad Mzali, visited Syria, Jordan and Iraq last month in the first phase of its mission. The visit culminated in the first round of talks between Jordan and Syria in Jeddah on Sept. 16. At the Jeddah meeting, Syria and Jordan agreed to end hostile media attacks and boost bilateral trade and economic relations.

Mr. Rifai returned to Amman from Riyadh later on Monday and voiced his appreciation for Prince Abdullah's great and constructive efforts towards the success of the meetings with Dr. Kasim Mr. Rifai also voiced appreciation and gratitude for King Fahd and Saudi Arabia for hosting the talks and the hospitality accorded to him and the Jordanian delegation during their two-day stay in the Saudi capital. The prime minister also thanked Mr. Kibi and other members of the mediation committee who attended the talks.

In a statement carried by the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, man was quoted as saying on Monday by the AP. "They hit for political reasons, not retaliation, to kill the leadership of the PLO and kill Arafat himself. They expected to change the whole situation in the Middle East," he told the AP in an interview in Tunis.

PLO envoy arrives in Amman

(Continued from page 1)

acts to sabotage Arab peace efforts, according to Ahmad Abdul Rahman, the PLO's chief spokesman.

"The raid was not an unexpected event," Mr. Abdul Rah-

Whitehead optimistic after meeting Mubarak

(Continued from page 1)

hijackers despite U.S. attempts to take them to the United States.

Mr. Mubarak called the airliner takeover "piracy" and demanded a public apology from Mr. Reagan to the Egyptian people. The controversy in Italy, which focused on Rome's decision to allow Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Mohammad Abbas (Abu Abbas) to leave the country, led to the collapse of the Italian government.

The U.S. Justice Department has issued a warrant accusing Abu Abbas of "masterminding" the hijacking. Egypt said Abu Abbas, who was on the plane with the alleged gunmen, had played a key role in negotiating an end to the hijacking.

There was no statement from Egyptian officials following the meeting. Mr. Whitehead said President Mubarak reviewed steps which Egypt took in the Achille Lauro affair "and we now have a better understanding of each other's point of view."

In his statement, Mr. Whitehead said the U.S. action was "in no way directed against Egypt or its people, for whom all Americans have the deepest respect."

The American envoy thanked Egypt for its efforts in negotiating an end to the 51-hour hijacking without "more tragic results."

Mr. Whitehead said the United States regretted that the incident had harmed U.S.-Egyptian relations.

Mr. Mubarak had said Egypt wanted to fly the hijackers to PLO headquarters in Tunis for trial. Tunisia refused to grant landing rights for the Egyptian plane shortly before it was hijacked.

In an interview aired Sunday by the U.S. television network CBS, Mr. Mubarak described the U.S. action as "a stab in the back."

"I could tell you that I consider this from the United States a stab in the back... from a friend," Mr. Mubarak said.

The U.S. move triggered anti-

American demonstrations in Cairo by students, who also denounced Mr. Mubarak for not taking a tougher stand against the United States.

On Saturday, Interior Minister Ahmad Rushdy ordered an end to such demonstrations and warned police would deal "severely" with those who disobeyed.

Hours after the order was published, riot police clashed with students at Cairo's Ain Shams University in the most violent confrontation since the U.S. takeover. Witnesses told Reuter police showered the campus with tear gas, setting two fires and injuring a number of students. Witnesses and campus sources said several were arrested although no precise figures were available.

Attending the Mubarak-Whitehead meeting on Monday were Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid, Egyptian presidential adviser Osama Al Baz and U.S. Ambassador Nicholas Veliotes.

The Egyptian foreign minister was quoted by weekly newspaper Mayo as saying that the Middle East region was "boiling" after the Oct. 1 Israeli raid on the PLO headquarters in Tunis and the U.S. hijacking of the Egyptian plane.

Mr. Abdul Meguid said these recent events had cast a shadow over the peace process but added that Egypt would continue its efforts.

"Egypt still stands by its position that an American-Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue is a step on the right way which has to be taken in order to find a peaceful solution," Mr. Abdul Meguid said according to the early Monday edition of the paper.

He reiterated the official reaction to the U.S. hijacking of the Egyptian plane that it would take time and effort for bilateral relations to return to normal.

Both Mr. Mubarak and Mr. Abdul Meguid had indicated that a quick revival of Middle East peace talks may help cool

angry feelings against the United States and Israel.

Mr. Mubarak told reporters on Sunday that it was "vital now to push the peace process forward" while Mr. Abdul Meguid was quoted by Mayo as saying recent events caused a setback "but we must keep the momentum and exert all efforts to reach a solution for the Palestinian problem."

In Tunis, U.S. embassy sources said Mr. Whitehead was to travel to Tunisia on Monday at his own request to see Prime Minister Mohammad Mzali and Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi.

The previously cloudless U.S.-Tunisian relations cooled distinctly when Washington expressed support for the Israeli air strike on the PLO headquarters.

Four days later the United States abstained on a United Nations Security Council resolution condemning the raid.

Diplomatic sources in Tunis told Reuter at the time that Tunisia had resolved to break off diplomatic relations with Washington if it had vetoed the resolution.

Mr. Whitehead left Monday afternoon for Tunis. U.S. embassy spokesman Edward Bernier refused to confirm his destination, but air controllers at Cairo airport said the pilot of Mr. Whitehead's plane had filed a flight plan for the Tunisian capital.

Egyptian officials made no comment on Monday's meeting, and Mr. Mubarak avoided reporters by leaving his Uruba palace, where the talks were held, through a side door.

Dr. Baz, who attended Mr. Mubarak's meeting with Mr. Whitehead, said later: "We view everything positively and we shall wait and see." But he could not say whether the president shared his view.

Dr. Baz said it was too early to say whether Mr. Whitehead's statement about negotiations in an appropriate context indicated a shift by Washington on its objections to an international conference.

Commonwealth announces sanctions on S. Africa

(Continued from page 1)

news conference on Monday, before leaving for a one-day visit to Cuba.

"I don't think it will look too toothless to South Africa."

The accord fell short of some demands for mandatory and comprehensive economic sanctions against Pretoria.

Britain's only concession was to agree to a declaration that all the members were ready to restrict imports of South African krumm and coins.

Remaining items on a nine-point list in the accord, including a ban on government-to-government loans and a freeze on sales of computer equipment to the South African security forces, were in line with present British policy.

The summit also agreed to appoint a committee of eminent Commonwealth figures to try to establish a dialogue between South Africa's white rulers and black nationalist leaders.

If Pretoria failed, within six months, to make concrete progress towards such a dialogue then the Commonwealth would consider the adoption of further measures.

— A ban on air links with South Africa;

— A ban on new investment or reinvestment of profits;

— A ban on agricultural imports;

— Termination of double taxation agreements;

— Termination of all government assistance to investment in, and trade with, South Africa;

— A ban on all government procurement in South Africa;

— A ban on government contracts with majority owned South African companies; and

Tunisia rejects Egyptian charge

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Mubarak said: "The reality is we asked permission for Egyptair, lined up to go to Tunisia, to leave at eight o'clock from Cairo. They asked the Americans. The Americans told them, 'give them permission... you know the information through Tunisia and we are sure of that.'"

"At that time, you decided to take the decision for interception."

Asked about the charge, White House spokesman Michael Guest told Reuters: "There was no such deal between the United States and Tunisia."

He was reiterating a similar denial made last week by a senior administration official who said U.S. intelligence had learned that the Egyptian jet bearing the four hijackers had taken off from Cairo and this had led to the decision to hijack the plane.

In the interview, Mr. Mubarak also expressed surprise that four people could take over a ship with 350 crewmembers and said the possibility of collusion between the sailors and the hijackers needed study.

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But they said the Damascus-based Palestinian group demanded that they had full control over the camps.

The Lebanese front comprises the Communist Party, the Progressive Socialist Party, the Syrian Nationalist Social Party and the Baath Party.

Beirut battles reerupt

(Continued from page 1)

He told an afternoon news conference he believed Syrian-backed Palestinians might take part in the attacks, and accused Ahmad Jibril, a leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC), of helping to plan them.

"I believe maybe a massacre will start within a few hours... under a new flag, after the (Lebanese Shi'ite militia) Amal movement failed in a similar mission," Mr. Arafat.

The PLO has accused Syria of at least tacitly backing Amal in battles with Palestinian camp residents in Beirut in June.

Mr. Arafat said he had lodged a protest with the Arab League over what he said were the proposed attacks, and had informed the Non-Aligned Movement and Organisation for African Unity (OAU) that massacres were planned in Beirut and Tripoli.

Sweden bans weightlifters to combat drug use

STOCKHOLM (R) — The Swedish Weightlifting Association Sunday decided to ban all their lifters from international events next year in an attempt to combat dope taking in the sport.

Association chairman Curt-Erik Hermansson told Reuters Sweden hoped to set an example to awaken the rest of the world and make all countries united in the fight against doping.

The ban means Swedish competitors will miss next year's world and European championships, as well as other international events outside Sweden. Hermansson said.

"Five of the 11 Swedish national powerlifting champions this year have been stripped of their titles after doping tests proved positive," Hermansson explained. "We hope this move will make other nations take similar drastic action to stop doping in weightlifting and powerlifting. This is a unique step in the world of sports, but we felt we had to tackle it in depth."

Hermansson said Sweden's top 25 lifters would be tested continuously throughout the year to prevent them from using drugs when the ban is lifted.

"If any lifter in any club is found to be using drugs, the whole club will be expelled from the national series," he said, adding the step was needed to rebuild the sport's credibility.

In spite of the ban, Sweden will stage the women's world and men's European powerlifting championships in 1986 and Hermansson said Swedish lifters would take part in both events as well as the Nordic championships.

It's Nassipour by a neck in Toronto

TORONTO (R) — Longshot Nassipour, far behind the leaders for most of the race, rallied in the stretch on Sunday to win the \$600,000 Rothmans International for the Dogwood Stables of the United States.

Ridden by Jean-Luc Samyn, the five-year-old Kentucky-bred Chestnut came between the leaders with a few yards remaining in the 1.5-mile turf race, to win by a neck over the favourite Sumayr of France.

Triptych, another French horse and the only filly in the 11-horse field, finished third.

Nassipour, sent off at odds of

25-1, paid \$57.20, \$15.60 and \$8.70, while Sumayr, owned by the Aga Khan, returned \$4.00 and \$3.40. Triptych paid \$6.70 for her backers.

Imperial Choice, the top three-year-old in Canada this year, wound up fourth after taking a three-length lead at the top of the stretch.

Agent Double, another French-owned horse, placed fifth for trainer Alex Head and owner Jacques Wertheimer.

The Rothmans, for three-year-olds and up, attracted seven horses from Europe, two from the United States and two from Can-

ada. The victory for Nassipour, who covered the distance in 2:48 1/5 — well off the stakes and track record of 2:40 set by Dahlia in the 1974 International — was worth \$360,000 to the Dogwood Stable.

Nassipour made his move midway through the backstretch, although five or six horses were still in front of him at the time and he appeared to be boxed in. Agent Double, Air De Cour and Sordio, owned by American Craig Singer, all had the lead at one time or another before Imperial Choice took over at the top of the stretch.

But Nassipour, Sumayr and Triptych all came to challenge for the lead, with Nassipour just getting in front of Sumayr, who finished fourth recently in the Prix De L'Arc De Triumphe. Sordio wound up sixth, followed by Crazy Gold and Ivory, Air De Cour, Roman Strategy and Maldoror.

Sumayr went off as the 8-5 favourite, while the entry of Air De Cour and Maldoror was 2-1. The entry of Sumayr and Agent Double represented France in the 48th running of the International, while Gold and Ivory, although owned by American Paul Mellon, Crazy and Triptych, although owned by a Frenchman, carried England's hopes. Sordio and Nassipour ran for the U.S., and Imperial Choice and Roman Strategy, owned by Dave Mann of Toronto, represented Canada.

Second place was worth \$120,000 to the Aga Khan, breeder of Nassipour, while Triptych earned \$66,000.

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TWO FAVOURITES: Number one seed Ivan Lendl (left) and number four seed Mats Wilander lead a talented field, including Jimmy Connors, Mats Wilander, and Anders Jarryd, who will vie for the \$60,000 first prize in the Seiko Super tennis tournament beginning Tuesday in Tokyo (J.T. file photos)

Spotlight is on Becker in Tokyo

By Maggie Jackson
Associated Press Writer

TOKYO — West German Boris Becker vies for his first major victory since Wimbledon when he challenges defending champion Jimmy Connors, no. 1-ranked Ivan Lendl and others in the 1985 Seiko Super Tennis Tournament beginning Tuesday.

The three champions lead a field of 32 men competing in six days of singles and doubles matches at the Yoyogi National Stadium. The winner takes home \$60,000, and the best doubles team \$18,000.

The 17-year-old Becker, who in July became the first unseeded and the youngest player to capture the prestigious Wimbledon title, resumes competition in Tokyo, after more than a month-long break.

"I am looking forward to this tournament. I haven't competed since the U.S. Open, and I am playing well at the moment," said Becker, who faltered in the fourth round of the \$1.2 million Open in September.

"I have been playing a lot of tournaments this year, and it was good for me to take a break," the West German player told reporters upon arriving in Japan for the \$375,000 Nabisco Grand Prix event.

Meanwhile, U.S. veteran Con-

nors is seeking his first major victory of the year.

Connors, 33, won the Seiko tournament last year with a 6-4, 3-6, 6-0 triumph over Lendl as the 25-year-old Czechoslovak committed 26 unforced forehand errors and 38 unforced backhand errors, many in the third set.

While admitting that he must give up his place "in a couple of years" to the new crop of younger players, Connors bristles at the suggestion of a slowdown.

"I've won enough tournaments in the past to give me a break for a year," he commented on his record this year.

"I'm still out there trying to win tournaments," he said, while predicting stiff competition in this week's matches because "the cut-off to get into the tournament is very high, which means that the quality of players is exceptional."

The steady Lendl, who captured the Seiko tournament in 1983, has won the U.S. Open and the U.S. Clay Courts event this year.

Among the strong young Swedish heirs to Bjorn Borg, no.

3-ranked Mats Wilander, no. 7-ranked Anders Jarryd, and up-and-coming no. 18-ranked Henrik Sundstrom will compete here.

The tournament marks the second try at the Seiko crown for the popular 21-year-old Wilander, who won the French Open this year with a victory over Lendl.

Other Americans besides Connors in this year's Seiko tournament include 1985 Lipton International winner Tim Mayotte, no. 15-ranked Scott Davis, no. 19-ranked Brad Gilbert and no. 20-ranked David Pate.

The tournament will be played on the stadium's supreme courts, which are a chemical surface, in contrast to the grass of Wimbledon, the hard courts of the U.S. Open or the clay of the French Open.

Seedings for the Seiko tournament, announced Monday, were: 1. Lendl, 2. Wilander, 3. Connors, 4. Becker, 5. Jarryd, 6. Andres Gomez, Ecuador, 7. Tomas Smid, Czechoslovakia, 8. Mayotte.

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Britain's Peter Elliott wins California Mile

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Peter Elliott of Britain Sunday won the inaugural \$25,000 California Mile with a time of three minutes, 43.3 seconds over the uphill course.

The race, actually only 1,200 metres long, began near sea level and ascended 83.82 metres on a straight line through the city's business district.

Elliott, an 800-metre Olympian who finished fourth in the 1983 World Championships, took the lead after the halfway mark and easily topped the field of 10 runners. He earned \$5,000 for the victory.

Olympic gold medalist Steve Ovett of Britain finished second in 3:48.7 and Ross Donohue of the United States was third in 3:49.3.

Lynn Williams of Canada, the Olympic 3,000-metre bronze medalist, won her fourth consecutive road race in the United States, topping a field of 14 women with a time of 4:24.0.

Williams said the climb was extremely difficult. "Imagine the worst thing you could do in training and multiply it by 100. All I could do was put one foot in front of the other."

Williams, who led from start to finish, won \$5,000.

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2- THE KARATE HELL

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NIGHT HAWKS

(Colour)

Performances: 12:3-5:30-8

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.4327/37	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3634/39	Canadian dollars
	2.6290/6300	West German marks
	2.9665/80	Dutch guilders
	2.1580/95	Swiss francs
	53.23/28	Belgian francs
	8.0175/0225	French francs
	1774/1774	Italian lire
	214.65/80	Japanese yen
	7.9140/9190	Swedish crowns
	7.8595/8645	Norwegian crowns
	9.5240/90	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	325.75/326.25	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — Equities ended slightly easier after a lacklustre session with the market falling to continue last week's rise to record levels, dealers said.

The broadly based FTSE 100 share index at 1430 GMT was down 1.5 at 1339.7 while the FT 30 index at 1400 GMT was off 3.8 from Friday's record close at 1047.1.

Allied Lyons closed 5p lower at 270, but recovered slightly from 266p after the Elders' £1.8 billion bid for the company. The offer, which is the largest mounted on the London market, was later rejected by Allied. Elders closed 2p higher at 200.

Gold shares were mixed and North Americans little changed. ICI closed 7p lower at 647, ahead of third quarter results this week. Grand Metropolitan shaded 5p to 360 and BTR declined 10p to 373.

Government bonds showed mixed movements of around 1/16 point after a quiet session, having firmed initially following a surge in sterling, dealers said.

Banks moved against the trend gaining up to 12p while insurances returned to around Friday's closing levels after a firm opening. Oils were mostly easier. Stores were helped by the latest confederation of British industry report which saw retail sales recovering in October. Woolworth rose 2p to 523.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, OCT. 22, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The daytime finds you able to add charm and beauty to your surroundings and to do whatever will bring you advancement in interests connected with your desire for pleasure.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get together with friends who have similar artistic and creative interests as you and enjoy them. Use good judgment.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Seek out those persons who can assist you in becoming more successful by using more modern methods.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) One of different background to your own has the best ideas for your advancement at this time, so listen closely.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Do whatever will bring pleasure to loved ones during the day, then tonight be with a good pal for fun.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Be charming with a partner and you can come to a far better understanding. Straighten out financial affairs with family.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Become more efficient at your work and it becomes more profitable, then you can later be with good friends.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Showing more affection for your mate and your friends is important today and tonight. Get your finest talents working like a charm.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Get something new for the home that will please your family before you go out for amusement with your friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Seek the data you need to operate on a more modern vein in your daily activities. Gain the approval of one in position.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Become better aware of modern trends so that you can become far more prosperous in the future.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be more dramatic and gain your finest goals, and tonight do what will please your mate the most.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You have ideas that are progressive, but they should be studied further before putting them in motion.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she can easily fit into Jet Age circles, whether in career or social life and will understand all that is modern in its nature.

Be sure to send to the right schools, and your progeny can be most successful in whatever field is chosen. Be careful of the diet early.

THE Daily Crossword by James R. Burns

ACROSS

1. Gladiolus's milieu
2. Musical command
3. Mopet
4. Food fishes
5. Elevated heat
6. Sign
7. Famous institution
8. Sgt.
9. Male lace
10. Camp item
11. Weather cycles
12. Stream contents
13. Steady flow
14. Coarse life
15. Set-up
16. Fit
17. Warning
18. Anderson's "High"
19. Biblical patriarch
20. Petitions
21. Coachman's command
22. Oceanic abbr.
23. Rye for one
24. Overhead
25. Interference
26. Cross over
27. Takes care of
28. Ancient Gr.
29. Delinquent
30. High rating
31. Kind of season
32. Yell man
33. Small bit
34. Elevation: abbr.
35. One who sings
36. Singer Ford
37. Stadium cheer
38. Puffin sound
39. Go formal

DOWN

1. Helpers: abbr.
2. Kind of nose
3. East people
4. Clear
5. The butt steps here
6. Like — of bricks
7. Jacket sits
8. "What a good boy —!"
9. Stairs
10. Most ritzy
11. Metal craftsman
12. Faraway
13. Ring wine
14. Meeting: abbr.
15. Mod off
16. Work units
17. Walks over
18. West ashw
19. Spore
20. Time periods
21. Building item
22. Below: pref.
23. Author Oliver
24. Meadowland
25. Newspaper workers
26. Custom
27. Glorifies
28. Provided food
29. Agnus —
30. Window section
31. Western
32. Miss Durne
33. Major or minor
34. Church parts
35. Hitchcock's "Window"
36. Actress Ralusa
37. Czech river
38. Workman's op.
39. Stander

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

BAIRN SCAM SPEED
DUGLE PALEO CAME
ANALY ABOVE ARMS
YIGHTHOPEALVES
EASTY ARE
EMERGE DREDGE
DOLLS ROUBA EGO
ARID PANES CARD
MAD BUZZY THREE
KENAPE CHESTIS
ICE SOWN
KNIDHOFHERRAD
MOISA THOUD TISLE
NORTH EASED ELAN
BELTS NEWY BORT

USSR reports industrial gains

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union said Sunday it has "overcome the slackening" of its economic growth with a 3.7 per cent increase in production over the first nine months of 1985, but oil production continues to drop.

The Soviet Union is the world's largest producer of oil and natural gas and earns much of the hard currency it needs for grain and high-technology imports through energy sales.

Oil output continued its decline, dropping to 445 million tons for January-September, or three per cent less than over the same period in 1984, which saw the first-

ever decrease in production.

"There are statistics which are distressing," the official news agency TASS commented. "Oil industry as in the past months is lagging behind."

The Central Statistical Board published economic performance figures for the first three quarters of the year which show natural gas output up by more than 10 per cent, as well as double-digit gains in production of computers and advanced machinery.

Improvements also were reported in production of consumer goods.

Economic growth accelerated

by five per cent between July and September, bringing the nine-months figure up from the 3.1 per cent reported for the first half of the year, the Communist Party newspaper Pravda reported.

Soviet leader, Mr. Mikhail S. Gorbachev, has campaigned for higher industrial output through better discipline and efficiency since he rose to the leadership position in March.

In a speech last week before the party's 300-plus member central committee, Mr. Gorbachev called for economic gains of at least six per cent annually through the year 2000. Last year's growth rate was 3.8 per cent.

Moscow Narodny Bank to halt Lebanon activities

BEIRUT (R) — The state-owned Moscow Narodny Bank is to suspend its activities in Lebanon indefinitely, Managing Director Vladimir Tutinkov said Monday.

"We are freezing operations some time in November. I don't know for how long," Mr. Tutinkov told Reuters. He gave no reason.

The bank drastically reduced operations in Lebanon after the 1982 Israeli invasion, laying off some 70 staff. Mr. Tutinkov would not say if the remaining 14 would

also lose their jobs.

Before 1982, Moscow Narodny played an important role in financing trade with the Eastern Bloc for Lebanon and Arab countries lacking diplomatic relations with Moscow.

The bank sold its prestigious office block in Beirut to a group of Lebanese investors in 1982, who resold it to Lebanon's Intra Investment Company several months ago.

Moroccan king stresses role of private sector

RABAT (R) — Morocco's King Hassan has urged his government to step up measures to ensure greater participation by the private sector in the country's economy.

In a letter to Prime Minister Mohammed Karim Lamrani, widely reported by the national press Sunday, King Hassan called for a cut-back in bureaucracy to encourage new foreign and local investment in all economic sectors.

The king's message was apparently timed to coincide with the recent reshuffling of a major part of Morocco's \$13 billion foreign debt and agreement on a stand-by credit of \$315 million with the International Monetary

Fund.

Morocco also recently obtained fresh aid from France and the United States.

Economists said these developments should enable the country to overcome years of hardship caused by droughts, widening trade and budget deficits and the drain on the treasury of the war in the Western Sahara.

Political analysts said the king's letter, which listed agricultural production, professional training and housing as the country's priorities, was designed to spur the coalition government into more dynamic action.

China probes frauds

PEKING (R) — China has launched a nationwide investigation into serious economic crimes such as bribery, blackmail and the use of bank loans for private gain.

The China Daily said investigators had uncovered "serious economic law violations involving local government leaders in crimes such as fraud, bribery and smuggling."

The People's Daily overseas edition said the 10-week probe would cover every department, bank and district in the nation.

Investigators would examine control of bank loans which was "too lax" and the management of both foreign and domestic currency.

The international business paper said there had been an increase in illegal exports of Hong Kong dollars from China with more than five million dollars (\$640,000) seized in the first eight months of this year.

It said recent cases were connected with the smuggling of cars into China.

IDB to lend Dhaka \$31m

DHAKA (R) — The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) will lend Bangladesh \$21 million for crude oil imports and \$10 million for an irrigation and flood control project, the official BSS news agency said Monday.

The loans will bring the bank's total assistance to Bangladesh to \$531.5 million since 1972.

Islamic talks to examine technological cooperation

ISTANBUL (R) — A five-day coordinating conference on technology among Islamic countries started here Monday with more than 60 officials and experts from 16 countries and international agencies taking part.

The conference, hosted by Turkey, is organized jointly by the Turkish Scientific Research Institution (Tubitak) and the Islamic Foundation for Science and Technology and Development (IFS-TAD), an organization of the Islamic Conference.

The conference, the first of its kind, will hear the views of more than 20 scientists on developing technology in the Muslim World, the organizers said.

Prince Sultan Ibn Salman, the first Muslim astronaut, who heads the Saudi Arabian delegation, said the transfer of technology to Islamic countries has created problems in the past. "Therefore we must try to develop our own appropriate technology," he said.

Turkish minister of state, Mr. Mustafa Tmaz Tuz, in an opening speech, said the conference should convene every two years. "If we act together we can have better bargaining power in the purchase of new technologies," he said.

'Africa needs more than food'

ROME (R) — The head of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) says Africa needs more than food aid to recover from the latest famine.

Mr. Edouard Saouma, director-general of the FAO told Reuters in a recent interview:

"Give food to the Africans and you keep them alive for some time. But you do not help them to develop their own agriculture. I wish that out of five ships with grain, there could be one with fertilizers and seeds."

"Let us not be lulled into thinking that all will be well once the rains return to normal. We will never conquer hunger until we succeed in tearing rural areas from their backwardness and poverty," he concluded.

Greek unionists protest against austerity course

ATHENS (R) — Hundreds of thousands of Greeks went on a one-day strike Monday to protest against government austerity measures and trade unions staged rallies and marches throughout the country, union leaders said.

Building workers, many factory and shop-workers, taxi drivers, nurses, telephonists and airport workers were among those who stopped work all day. Bus drivers and teachers struck for part of the day.

The strikes, backed by the communist movement, are in protest at an economic package announced this month, including a 15 per cent devaluation, wage curbs and cuts in public spending.

All flights of state-owned Olympic Airways and many by foreign airlines were cancelled. Army vehicles ran in the capital's main streets to provide public transport.

Thousands of people gathered in the business district in Athens and cheered union leaders as they denounced the austerity programme.

The marchers, waving banners reading "no to austerity" and "let the industrialists pay for the crisis," marched to the economy ministry and parliament.

Similar rallies took place in other towns.

The Socialist government of Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu says its economic measures are vital to deal with mounting problems including debt of

more than \$13 billion and inflation of 20 per cent.

The balance of payments deficit on current account, which determines how much Greece needs to borrow abroad, is expected to jump from \$2.2 billion this year to a record of \$2.8 billion. Mr. Papandreu has said.

Greece's main trade union body, the Confederation of Greek Workers, decided by a narrow majority last week not to back strike action but 13 of the major unions that make up the confederation supported Monday's action.

Sources at the Athens Labour Centre, which groups 900 small trade unions and backed Monday's action, reported virtually 100 per cent participation by its members working in 50 small factories.

Australia unions begin boycott of S.African goods

SYDNEY (AP) — Australia unions began a planned weeklong ban on handling South African goods Monday as part of a nationwide protest against apartheid.

The campaign aims to disrupt mail, shipping, trade, travel and telecommunications between the two countries. It was organized by the Australian Council of Trade Unions, whose 2.5 million membership in 160 unions represents almost half the country's workforce.

The protest follows efforts by Prime Minister Bob Hawke, a former president of the union alliance, to get Commonwealth heads of government meeting in the Bahamas to impose economic

sanctions against the Pretoria government.

Two-way trade last year reached \$240 million, officials said.

Federal opposition leader, Mr. John Howard, criticised the ban, saying: "It will not bring about an end to apartheid."

"In particular, any communication ban will cause distress and inconvenience to those many thousands of Australians who have close relatives and friends in South Africa," he said.

Earlier in the day, several hundred people demonstrated peacefully outside the offices of South African Airways, which has been forced to cancel its weekly flight to Australia next Saturday because of the union ban.

Poland to press efficiency drive through bankruptcies

WARSAW (R) — Poland will fall short of certain economic targets this year and in a drive for efficiency, bankruptcy proceedings will be stepped up against unprofitable companies, the government newspaper Rzeczpospolita said Monday.

"Greater efficiency in management is now the number one issue," government planning commission deputy chairman, Mr. Franciszek Kubiczek, was quoted as saying.

The threat of bankruptcy will be intensified to "force improvement in lagging enterprises," he said. Liquidation proceedings were being prepared against some companies and "this sharp course will be continued."

Mr. Kubiczek accused com-

panies of "wages madness" late last year, upping salaries without matching rises in productivity.

Some executives have lost their jobs following audits of their firms' books. But only a handful of companies have so far been liquidated under a new bankruptcy law.

The law was introduced two years ago as part of Poland's economic reforms designed to improve industrial efficiency and impose more financial responsibility on enterprises.

As with bankruptcy law provisions in many capitalist economies, liquidation is seen as a last resort. But Polish economists have complained recently that the law has not been applied rigorously enough here.

Renault workers end strike

PARIS (R) — Workers at the Renault car group's Billancourt plant in western Paris returned to work Monday, ending a 12-day strike and sit-in, union officials said.

Billancourt was the last plant of the state-owned group to resume production. Other plants affected by the strike, protesting at a cut in year-end bonus payments, returned to normal last week.

The strike collapsed when non-communist unions backed off from the communist-led action, heeding a government warning that the company's future was at risk.

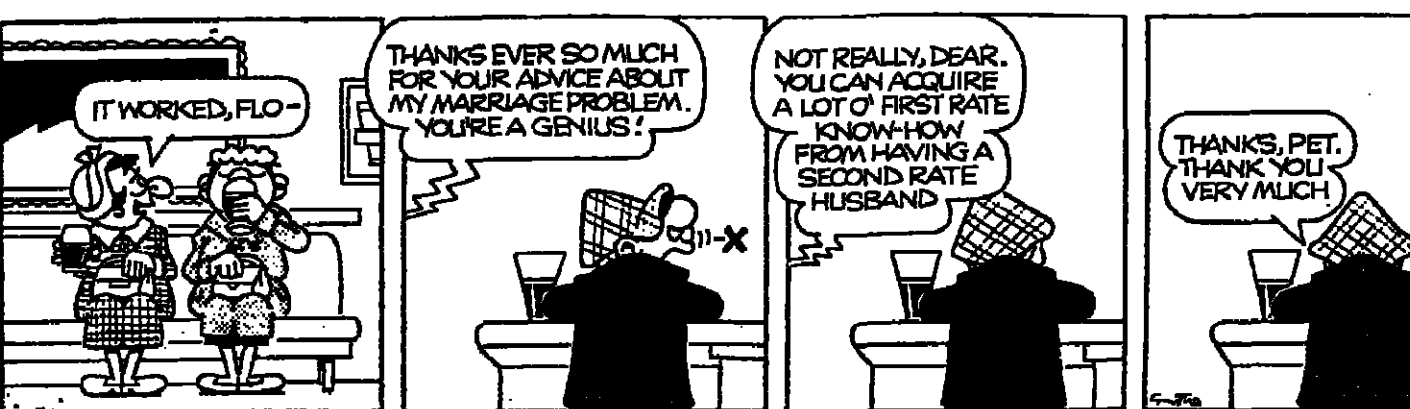
Peanuts



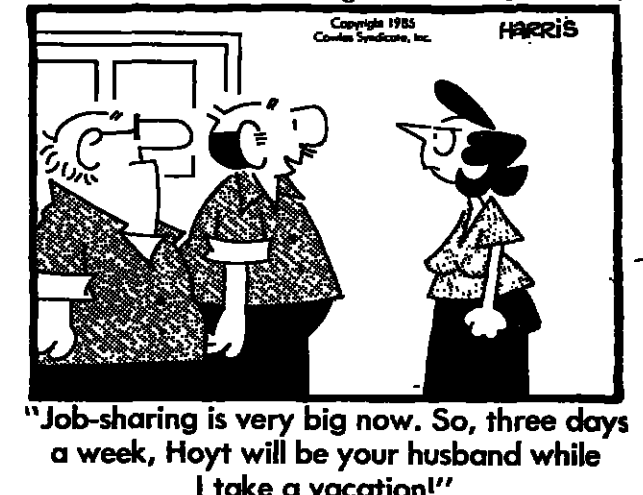
Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LOYKE
POTVI
BINLEB
EMBLAG

Kid brother was crying all night...

WHAT SOME COLLEGE STUDENTS MAJOR IN.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: "OOOOO-OOOOO" (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DRAWL EIGHT DEPICT NAUSEA

Answer: If you're going to act like a skunk just make sure that nobody does this—GETS WIND OF IT

Soviet gloomy comments are reportedly aimed to create U.S. flexibility

MOSCOW (R) — Gloomy assessments from the Kremlin on the state of U.S.-Soviet relations are seen here as part of a drive by Moscow to create a sense of urgency before next month's Geneva summit.

Diplomats said the effort was apparently aimed at promoting an atmosphere of urgency or even alarm that would put public pressure on President Reagan for flexibility at Geneva.

Leonid Zamyatin, the Communist Party's spokesman on foreign affairs, said in an interview issued Sunday that superpower relations had not been so bad since before the countries opened relations in 1933. Mr. Zamyatin acts as the Soviet leader's spokesman abroad.

His remarks, to Newsweek magazine, echoed a tone set by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev on a trip to Paris earlier this month and since amplified by other officials and state media.

The Kremlin's message is that Washington's defence plans are now so dangerous and uncontrolled that the planet is threatened with extinction.

The prime target for the Soviet drive is Mr. Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative (SDI) programme which is aimed at developing a space-based defence against attacking missiles.

Last week Mr. Gorbachev said in a speech that the world situation had taken a dangerous turn, while an authoritative article in the party daily Pravda said "war clouds are gathering over the planet."

On Saturday, the Armed Forces Chief of Staff Sergei Akhromyev delivered the most explicit pledge so far to match SDI with a Soviet "Star Wars" programme if Washington persisted.

The Kremlin argues that SDI is aimed at producing a shield that would enable Washington to launch a nuclear strike against the Soviet Union with hope of impunity.

Marshal Akhromyev said Washington had not made one positive gesture on the arms control issue, despite Moscow's latest offer of a 50 per cent joint cut in offensive arms.

On Sunday senior commentator Fyodor Burlatsky said on television that only limited results could be expected from the summit because the damage to U.S.-Soviet ties was so great.

But he said the meeting could mark a turning point if the Americans wanted it that way.

Soviet officials talking privately have indicated they see progress on arms control at the summit as psychologically crucial, although U.S. officials have been sounding caution over expecting more than a meeting of minds.

Diplomats said Moscow's alarmist tone would probably intensify in the four weeks leading up to the meeting as the Kremlin sought to impress Western opinion with the magnitude of the choices facing the U.S. president.

Asked about Soviet-American relations, Mr. Zamyatin replied: "Bad. Bad. It has never been so bad before. Since 1980, relations between the U.S. and the Soviet Union have been worsening with every month."

"They have been reduced to such a state that practically all our previous agreements have been practically torn in two, and only a few remain. Those remaining few represent the brakes that prevent relations from deteriorating completely."

"Relations have never been worse, except perhaps for those years to 1933, when we had no diplomatic relations."

Mr. Zamyatin is to accompany Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to the summit conference with President Reagan in Geneva next month.

He told Newsweek the Soviet Union would consider the summit a success "if we would define an approach for solving the major contemporary problems... the major task is to put an end to the arms race and to create conditions that would exclude the possibility of confrontation."

On the issue of human rights in the Soviet Union, Mr. Zamyatin said the Kremlin intends to make some points of its own. He told the magazine that the Soviet Union will bring up the high rate of unemployment and symbols of anti-Semitism in the United States.



The Prince and the Princess of Wales

Charles admits being 'a little eccentric'; Diana hurt by gossip

LONDON (AP) — Prince Charles and Princess Diana, buffeted by gossip that their marriage has gone sour, publicly portrayed themselves as a happily married couple. But they did have a friendly argument about whether they ever quarrel.

He admitted he's a little eccentric, and joked about the 12-year age gap between them. She said the gossip often hurts her. Otherwise, the next king and queen of Britain presented themselves to an estimated 20 million television viewers as partners doing a difficult job together.

In an unprecedented joint interview Sunday which Buckingham Palace said was partly aimed at setting the record straight about some of the "remarkable stories" about them, Charles and Diana spoke candidly about their private lives, their public image and their role as royals.

Diana, consistently voted one of the world's best dressed women, said her top priority was supporting her husband and being a good wife and mother. "My clothes are not my priority... fashion isn't my big thing at all."

Charles, the 36-year-old son of Queen Elizabeth II, chuckled about the age gap, saying: "I'm sure it must be absolute hell living with an ancient old thing like me... I trust she'll keep me reasonably young in some aspects."

The 45-minute interview with Independent Television News, their first together since their fairytale wedding four years ago, follows a spate of press allegations about their marriage.

The latest, in the American magazine Vanity Fair, claimed Charles and Diana were growing apart because she has turned into a restless and demanding wife while he had come under the influence of "a motley crew of mystics, spiritualists and self-sufficiency freaks."

Other newspapers and magazines have claimed Diana doesn't get along with her sister-in-law Princess Anne, that she spends a fortune on clothes, and that the couple can't agree on music because he likes opera and she favours Duran Duran.

Asked what he thought of people who said some of his new interests were eccentric, Charles replied: "Well, yes, I think I'm becoming more eccentric as I get older, probably."

But the prince defended his interest in parapsychology, alternative medicine and vegetarianism, saying: "I am purely interested in being open-minded."

He denied a report that he was trying to contact his late uncle, Lord Mountbatten, through a ouija board. He said that until now he didn't even know what a ouija board was, and hoped his statement would stem the flow of letters.

Police kill two in anti-Marcos protest

MANILA (R) — Demonstrators said two people were shot dead Monday when police opened fire during the worst anti-government protest in Manila for more than two years.

Organisers of the protest involving 5,000 people in central Manila said the two demonstrators died after being hit by police bullets.

There was no official confirmation, but doctors at one government hospital said at least 12 people suffered gunshot wounds and two men were near death.

Trouble broke out when police patrol cars blocked marchers protesting against the 20-year rule of President Ferdinand Marcos.

Angry demonstrators pelted police with stones as they fired on the crowd, witnesses said. About 12 policemen suffered cuts and bruises.

Anti-Marcos protests are held almost daily in Manila. The last killings in a clash were in September 1983 when 10 people were killed by police bullets near Marcos palace.

Lino Broca, an award-winning film maker and one of the protest organisers, told a press conference two marchers had died and 13 others were being treated for bullet wounds.

Some witnesses said the trouble erupted when police began searching marchers. Others said it began when police cars cut through the line of marchers.

"Seven to 15 patrol cars cut through the marchers, segregating them into two groups. That's how the shooting started," student leader Efrén Turla told reporters.

Demonstrators said police lobbed teargas canisters at them and they retaliated with stones.

"I saw how one of our companions was shot with a .45 calibre pistol," one marcher said.

A government employee who saw the clash said he also saw the man being shot. "He was running when I saw him hit on the face and fall like a log," he said.

The organisers had billed the protest as a march of farmers and peasants demanding lower fertiliser prices but most of them were students and youths.

Meanwhile, Communist guerrillas killed 10 villagers and took 14 hostages in the mountains of southern Philippines, military authorities said Monday.

They said the bullet-riddled bodies of the 10 were found last week after rebels raided three villages on Mindanao Island.

Sergio Pablano, chief of one village, said 2,000 residents fled to towns nearby. He said guerrillas shot people who refused to pay an increased monthly "rebel tax" of five pesos (25 cents) a household instead of one peso.

The Communist New People's Army (NPA) is particularly active in Mindanao. Nearly 4,000 people have died in clashes between the military and rebels in the Philippines this year.

Sikh extremists kill two excise officers on Jammu and Kashmir border

NEW DELHI (R) — Sikh extremists killed two excise officers on Jammu and Kashmir state's border with Punjab Monday after Indian newspapers reported plans for an offensive in the region by a group called the Saffron Tigers.

Police said the extremists shot dead the two officers while they were on duty at the Lakhnautia toll post, which supervises commercial traffic between the two states in north India.

A police spokesman had no comment on whether the attack was linked to press reports that the Saffron Tigers, an extremist group, planned to plunge India into a communal holocaust by bombing religious shrines and poisoning Hindus.

The Hindustan Times said six captured leaders of the group had confessed to police that they planned to blow up a Hindu shrine and poison food at other religious meetings.

"Well obviously, one does feel very wounded. You think: Oh gosh, I don't want to go out and do my engagement this morning, nobody wants to see me. Help, panic."

The princess, who described herself as a perfectionist, said there is far too much emphasis on her — and her wardrobe.

"There is far too much about me in the newspapers, far too much. It horrifies me, when there's something more important, like what goes on in the (medical) hospitals, or there's been a bomb or something."

As for her clothes, she said above all they must be practical and not have skirts that blow up in the wind or short hems "because when you bend over there's six children looking up your skirt."

The show opened with Charles and Diana in the drawing room at Kensington Palace, showing off their sons, 3-year-old Prince William and 13-month-old Prince Harry, who were banging away on a piano. At one point, Charles put a white handkerchief over his head to try and attract his son's attention for the cameras.

After the festival, three buses carrying National Front supporters were attacked and had their windows smashed.

The Front, which has no parliamentary deputies but won over 10 per cent of the vote in European Parliamentary elections last year, aims to win 100 seats in the March poll for the National Assembly. Political analysts say it could win up to 50 seats.

Mr. Le Pen attacked political parties on both the left and right, saying they were all incapable of overcoming what he called "political-trade union terrorism."

"In the coming months we are going to wage a real battle against the mafia of power," he said.

Mr. Le Pen came under heavy fire at the weekend from France's mainstream opposition parties, which have ruled out any alliance with the extreme right.

Lionel Stoleru, a former minister and leading member of the centre-right UDF, described the front as "absolute evil" and said he preferred the Socialists to Mr. Le Pen.

There appears no AIDS panic in Africa, although the issue is debated in Kenya where an influential Kenyan weekly newspaper last month quoted findings of medical research as saying 54 per cent of prostitutes in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, had AIDS antibodies.

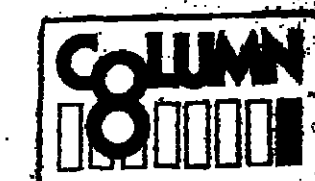
In Zaire, locals do not appear worried about AIDS and, punning on the French acronym for the disease, SIDA, call it "Syndrome Imaginaire Pour Discourager Les Amoureux" — the imaginary syndrome for discouraging lovers.

According to WHO's global reporting system, AIDS, which destroys the body's ability to fight infection, has claimed more than 13,000 victims in the United States, over 1,000 in Western Europe, above 700 in Latin America and a few in Oceania and Asia. Some 40 to 50 per cent of the cases have been fatal.

A WHO spokesman in Geneva described the Bangui meeting as a "cooperative effort to try to bring about better reporting of AIDS in Africa."

But the spokesman conceded that tracking the ailment in Africa would be difficult since the continent's health services were hard pressed dealing with other diseases.

Participants in the Bangui talks are expected from most of Africa's affected countries. These include Zaire, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Congo, Kenya, Zambia and Tanzania.



Diana makes surprise visit to N. Ireland

BELFAST (R) — Princess Diana, Britain's future queen, arrived unannounced in Northern Ireland Monday on her first visit to the province where almost 2,500 people have been killed in sectarian violence. Police and troops were on full-scale alert as senior army and police commanders welcomed the wife of Prince Charles, the heir to the British throne, at the Aldergrove Air Base. The visit, during which the princess was expected to visit a children's home, was kept secret to prevent it becoming a target for Irish Republican guerrillas.

Princess Diana, 29, arrived in Belfast on Monday morning. She was met by a large crowd of people, many of whom were waving Irish flags.

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S. African dissidents plead not guilty

PTERMARITZBURG (R) — Sixteen leading opponents of South Africa's apartheid race laws pleaded not guilty at a court here Monday to charges of high treason, which can carry the death penalty.

The accused, including senior leaders of the main internal anti-apartheid group, the United Democratic Front, are alleged to have used protest songs in their efforts to overthrow white minority rule by force.

Much of the evidence against them is based on speeches they made and songs they asked crowds to sing at political meetings.

State lawyer Gey Von Pittius said he agreed with Judge John Mbin's earlier statements that the songs were not in themselves illegal, but claimed the 16 had used the songs knowingly in their attempt to overthrow the government.

Outlining the history of the Revolutionary Alliance to which the state says the 16 belonged, Mr. Von Pittius said they had embarked on a policy of confrontation with the government on all fronts, including the cultural front.

As the only woman among the 16, Albertina Sisulu, entered the court Monday, her co-accused sang "Happy Birthday, Ma Sisulu." She was 67 Monday.

Sisulu's husband, Walter, is among leaders of the banned African National Congress (ANC) jailed over 20 years ago on similar charges under internal security laws.

The 16 also pleaded not guilty to alternative charges of furthering the aims of unlawful organisations, and of terrorism.

Mr. Von Pittius said: "The Revolutionary Alliance, which constituted the ANC, South African Communist Party and South African Congress of Trade Unions, considered culture as being an important part of inspiring people to actions."

He denied that the UDF itself was on trial, saying that the state was only alleging that the 16 had used the organisation to further the Alliance's aims.

"This case is not against people because of their attitude to apartheid or against the UDF as such," Mr. Von Pittius said.

Diplomats from the United States, Britain, West Germany, Sweden, Canada, Australia and Italy attended the trial as observers, as did James Dorsey for the American Bar Association and London-based Geoffrey Bindman of the International Commission of Jurists.

The latest, in the American magazine Vanity Fair, claimed Charles and Diana were growing apart because she has turned into a restless and demanding wife while he had come under the influence of "a motley crew of mystics, spiritualists and self-sufficiency freaks."

Other newspapers and magazines have claimed Diana doesn't get along with her sister-in-law Princess Anne, that she spends a fortune on clothes, and that the couple can't agree on music because he likes opera and she favours Duran Duran.

Asked what he thought of people who said some of his new interests were eccentric, Charles replied: "Well, yes, I think I'm becoming more eccentric as I get older, probably."

But the prince defended his interest in parapsychology, alternative medicine and vegetarianism, saying: "I am purely interested in being open-minded."

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Mr. Le Pen attacked political parties on both the left and right, saying they were all incapable of overcoming what he called "political-trade union terrorism."

Chinese missile test reportedly successful

PEKING (R) — China has successfully launched a cruise missile from a land-based site, the first cruise missile China is believed to have tested, East European diplomats said Monday.

The diplomats said they understood the missile, which landed in the East Sea about 190 miles south east of Shanghai, was a surface-to-surface missile for use by submarines.

They did not say where the missile was fired from or what its range was. But they said that most of its path was over land to facilitate electronic checks on the flight.

On Sept. 21, China warned ships and aircraft to avoid the area close to the splash-down. On Oct. 15 it announced that it had completed a launch of a "carrier rocket launch."

It did not say if the test was successful or not, in marked contrast to its last reported missile test in 1982 when the official media made a point of emphasising its success.

"But I don't think we should read anything into that," said one Western military attaché. "The fact that they announced that the launch took place at all is probably an indication that it was successful to some degree."

Western military attachés said earlier they believed the missile would be used by submarines and would be able to carry multiple warheads.

Peking has one or two nuclear submarines and, according to informed sources in Hong Kong last year, it is also developing a new missile-carrying class of submarine called the Daqingyu.

The sources said the new submarine was similar to the U.S. Polaris submarines now being phased out of service.

The submarine-launched missile tested in 1982 flew about 1,200 kilometres, signalling that China's navy had taken on a strategic role in addition to that of coastal defence.

World experts discuss extent of AIDS in Africa

BANGUI (R) — World experts on the killer disease AIDS meet in this Central African Republic capital on Tuesday in an effort to determine the extent of the illness in Africa, where heterosexuals appear as much at risk as homosexuals.

Doctors from the United States and Europe are due to join colleagues from Central African countries in four days of talks organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and officially termed a "Workshop On AIDS In Central Africa."

The Geneva-based body has learned of several hundreds of cases of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) in Africa since the disease was first identified in 1981.

But WHO Director General Dr. Halfdan Mahler has warned African countries not to make the fight against AIDS a priority at the expense of neglecting other killer diseases.

"AIDS is not spreading like hush fire in Africa. It is malaria and other tropical diseases that are killing millions of children every day," he told a meeting in Lusaka, Zambia, last month.

WHO officials told Reuters they had received no precise figures of AIDS cases because they get very few reports on the extent of the disease in Africa. There is no known cure for AIDS.

Throughout the West and in some parts of Asia there is panic, particularly among homosexuals who have been the main victims over the spread of the disease.

In Central and East Africa, however, it has been difficult to identify any group especially vulnerable to AIDS.

"AIDS in Africa occurs almost as frequently among females as males. Neither homosexuals nor intravenous drug abuse, nor even haemophilia (main carriers elsewhere) is a particular characteristic of sufferers, although a

multiplicity of sexual partners does appear to be one factor," a recent WHO survey said.

Some scientists have theorised that the disease originated in monkeys in Central Africa and spread to humans through bites or consumption of monkey meat.

Western press reports that the disease was rampant in East and Central Africa have been angrily denied by government officials.

There appears no AIDS panic in Africa, although the issue is debated in Kenya where an influential Kenyan weekly newspaper last month quoted findings of medical research as saying 54 per cent of prostitutes in Kenya's capital, Nairobi, had AIDS antibodies.

In Zaire, locals do not appear worried about AIDS and, punning on the French acronym for the disease, SIDA, call it "Syndrome Imaginaire Pour Discourager Les Amoureux" — the imaginary syndrome for discouraging lovers.

According to WHO's global reporting system, AIDS, which destroys the body's ability to fight infection, has claimed more than 13,000 victims in the United States, over 1,000 in Western Europe, above 700 in Latin America and a few in Oceania and Asia. Some 40 to 50 per cent of the cases have been fatal.

A WHO spokesman in Geneva described the Bangui meeting as a "cooperative effort to try to bring about better reporting of AIDS in Africa."

But the spokesman conceded that tracking the ailment in Africa would be difficult since the continent's health services were hard pressed dealing with other diseases.

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